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Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 1.29.2021

1 message

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Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 11:04 AM

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Wissahickon
CHARTER SCHOOL

Message From Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

As you know, like most other schools in Philadelphia, we are actively thinking deeply about the possibility of offering a hybrid model to **some** students before year's end. With Dr. Hite's announcement this week that K-2 will be launching a hybrid model in district schools, I'm sure you are wondering about Wissahickon. Note that the PFT has issued a statement that they believe all staff should be vaccinated before offering any in-person learning so we'll have to wait and watch to see what actually happens with district schools.

As our own Local Education Agency (LEA), we do not have to follow the district's plan. I want us to make a thoughtful plan that takes *all* kinds of safety into account. The admin team is spending an abundance of time thinking and talking about this as a group and also with local experts, including other heads of schools, epidemiologists, and CHOP.

Some of the questions we are looking at include:

- our actual ability to staff a model that includes some students in the building while some learn remotely simultaneously
- the logistics of bussing and transportation
- when vaccines will be widely available to staff making it safer to be in person
- if we could offer onsite rapid COVID-19 testing
- the benefits of a consistent, robust remote program for all students
- the benefits of offering something in person to our students who are struggling the most
- what does equity look like for our students right now in this complex setting

Some things we do know:

- Any subgroups of students that could be offered in-person learning will still have the option to stay remote. We've heard from several families that were concerned that their children would have to come in and we want to assure you this is not the case. You would make the decision that feels best for your student(s) and family.
- We will not start back with everyone in a hybrid model all at once- in any hybrid program students would be prioritized and staggered as they return so that we can start by learning on a small scale.
- Staff with existing medical conditions that make them high risk as defined by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health would have the option to continue to work remotely.
- If we do offer any kind of hybrid model, the **very earliest** we would offer it would be the start of Trimester 3 which is March 8th.

- If we offer a hybrid model, it will include a multi-layered approach to virus mitigation as recommended by the Health Department and CDC. Mitigations would include pre-arrival health screening, masking, distancing, small cohorts with no mixing, etc. These would be strictly adhered to.

I'm sorry it is taking some time for us to land on an answer about what the rest of the year will look like. We want to make an informed and good decision.

I wanted to give a wider view of the work that's happening right now and assure you that we will keep communicating, even when there isn't that much more to share. Thank you for your patience and trust.

Warmly,

Kristi

Essentials:

Vaccine Zoom Info Session on Tuesday, February 2nd at 6:00

Please come out to hear from Dr Kisha Martin about the COVID vaccine, to understand the Science of it, and to ask any questions. Dr Martin is the Head of the emergency room at Holy Redeemer Hospital with over 20 years of experience. It is important that every family can make an informed choice!

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/3359879471>

Meeting ID: 335 987 9471

Today's Assembly Commemorating Dr King

Today we hosted an all school assembly to commemorate the legacy of service of Dr King and to also kick off Black History Month. We hosted a panel of speakers who are changemakers in Philadelphia. Your children had amazing questions-- so many about how THEY could get involved. We're including links below so you can check out the speakers with your children! We are also sending out [this doc](#) that has simple ideas for how students can do service in their homes and communities. A big thank you to our guests! George Mathew of [I Love Thy Hood](#)

Buddha of [Power Circle Mentors](#) and Impact the Hood

Dr Michelle Nelson of [Mamatee Community Fridges](#) and their Go Fund Me



On Radar:

Black History Month Projects!!

In celebration of Black History Month, students will be receiving a 2 part at home project to complete. The project will be shared with families/students next week and is due February 22nd!! Please see below for the category assigned to part 1 of the student project.

Themes by Grade

K	Just Like Me
1	The Arts: writers, artists, musicians
2	Science and Technology
3	Biography
4	Sports and Wellness
5	Present Day Agents of Change
6	Politicians
7	Just Like I Wanna Be
8	Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You (Book Figures)

In addition to the project, we will also be celebrating the month with a Black History Month Assembly & Black Lives Matter Week celebrations!

Restorative Justice at Home: Tip of the Week

Holding regular family meetings to proactively respond to any issues that may be brewing between family members is one way to bring Restorative Justice principles into the home. Family meetings help build trust and communication between members of the family and provide space for checking in with one another, strengthening family bonds. (www.parenttoday.org)

Stay tuned for more Restorative Justice at Home tips next week!

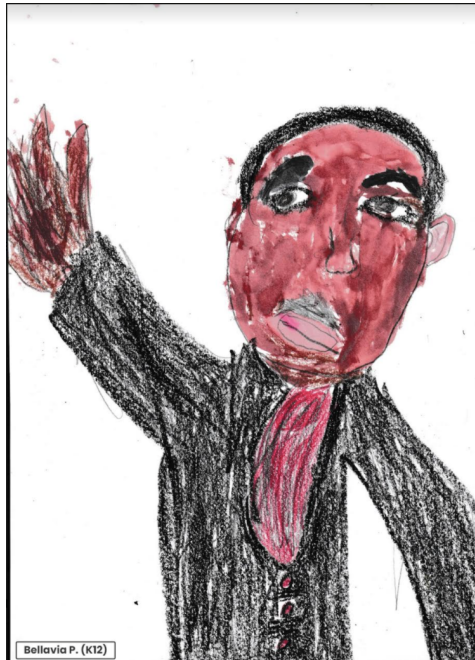
Extras:

Kindergarten learned about MLK and painted portraits to honor his legacy.

Bahari K-12



Bellavia K-11



Cares Champions:

Congratulations to this week's Cares Champions!

K-5

2nd Grade: Dylan Stern has shown endless positivity in 212 this year. She keeps us smiling and laughing throughout the day. She sets an amazing example of how to work hard and not give up. Dylan really looks out for her classmates and lifts them up when they need a boost. Dylan is willing to share when she isn't feeling so upbeat, modeling how to ask for and accept help, something we can all learn from. It is a delight to have Dylan in 212 this year.

6-8

7th Grade: Hayden Chandler is a new student here but she came in swinging! Her passion for social justice issues are way beyond her years! She tackles difficult subjects with compassion and empathy and is always one to challenge her classmates to think deeper! So glad you decided to come to WCS, Hayden, and keep up the good work!

7th Grade: Marsalis Boyd has really shown academic excellence in ELA class. He's challenged himself by tackling our whole class novel head-on and consistently completed his work. He brings a positive attitude to class and is willing to help his classmates when they're stuck. Good job, Marsalis!

The February Activities Calendar is In!!

Click the link below to check it out!

[February Activity Calendar.](#)

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