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## Weekly Wissahickon 3/12/2021

1 message

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

Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 9:59 AM



# Wissahickon

## CHARTER SCHOOL

### *A Message From Dean Kristi:*

Dear Families,

Hope you all have been enjoying the warm weather this week and finding some opportunities to get outside with your families. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday so remember to move your clocks ahead one hour.

Today I'm sharing an update on PSSA testing for this year. This applies to students in 3rd-8th grades. You may recall that last year all testing was cancelled. This was made possible because the Federal government presented states with a waiver to opt out of testing. This year, the same waiver has not been offered to date. Instead the Federal government has offered flexibility around the dates that tests can be administered, allowing schools to choose to offer the test anytime before September 30, 2021. At

Wissahickon, we do not feel that this test should be the priority for students right now for a whole myriad of reasons. Unfortunately, we do not have the option as a school to choose not to participate. We are still hoping that this will change and testing will be canceled, but in the meantime I wanted to make you aware that we are currently thinking about how to show compliance with what is required around assessments. I will share more updates as I have them.

In the meantime, **if you feel that the Federal government should be presenting states with the choice to opt out, you can share your voice by writing to Representative Dwight Evans.** Both of our schools are in his district. A sample message is included below. Please consider this action. The message can be sent to Rep. Evans on his website: <https://evans.house.gov/contact>.

### **Sample message below:**

Dear Representative Evans,

I am a parent of a student at Wissahickon Charter School, a public K-8 charter school in Philadelphia. I am writing today to ask you to advocate on behalf of all our city's students to the Federal Department of Education to waive standardized testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. The past year has presented an unprecedented challenge for students, families, and educators alike, and adding the burden of PSSAs to the process of reopening school buildings presents an unnecessary obstacle to the goal we all share of students returning to and thriving in our schools.

As you are well aware, most of our city's students are learning virtually, making testing in the normal Spring window a significant undertaking. The Federal Department of Education recognized this and offered states the flexibility to extend the testing window later into the year, which the Pennsylvania Department of Education has elected to do. However, this extension is an inadequate solution and gives schools until September 30 to complete administering PSSAs, meaning that valuable time reacclimating school communities to in-person learning in the Fall will instead be devoted to administering a standardized test at a time where many COVID-19 mitigation measures will still need to be in place and resources will be stretched thin.

The Federal and Pennsylvania Departments of Education have both noted the importance of administering standardized tests to understand learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. While understanding learning loss is certainly important, allowing schools to administer local assessments in lieu of state standardized testing can do much to answer that question while giving schools more flexibility in administering the assessments safely and getting actionable information into the hands of teachers more quickly than a standardized test that has to be scored and returned to schools months later. The Federal

Department of Education legally can and should let states offer this option to schools. I hope you will encourage the Department to do so.

Sincerely

[Your Name]

Many thanks,  
Kristi

***Essential:***

***Important Dates:***

***March 16th, @ 06:00 PM - WPP Meeting***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86034246607>

Meeting ID: 860 3424 6607

***Report Card Conferences March 17th-March 19th***

**\*\*\*School During Report Card Conference Days, March 17th-March 19th**

In order to have more time with parents during conferences, March 17th, 18th and 19th are no longer ½ days. Students will begin the day with a Zoom morning meeting from 8:30-9:00 and then will move to asynchronous (off Zoom) work. It is vitally important they attend the morning meeting for attendance credit and to get directions for all asynchronous work. Please plan accordingly.

***Report Card Conference Sign Up via My Conference Time***

Can you believe it's already time for our Trimester 2 report card conferences!! Please read on for instructions for signing up for your student(s) conference time.

**PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR REPORT CARD CONFERENCE BY MARCH 12, 2021. ANY CONFERENCE NOT SCHEDULED BY MARCH 12, 2021 @ 5:00 PM WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ASSIGNED.**

Report card conferences will be held on Wednesday, March 17th - Friday, March 19th. The "My Conference Time" site will be available for you to schedule your conference with your child(ren)'s teacher **UNTIL TODAY, Friday March 12, 2021 @ 5:00 PM**. Follow these steps to schedule:

- 1) Go to <https://myconferencetime.com/wissahickoncharter/>
- 2) Click on the name of your child(ren)'s teacher.

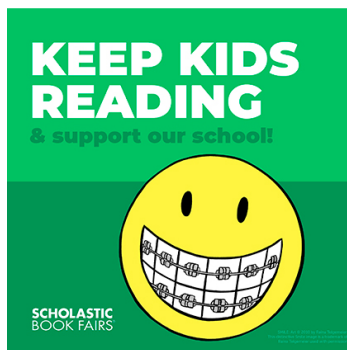
3) Select the desired date/time for your conference by clicking on "Sign Up."

4) Submit the requested information.

Please be advised that you are only scheduling for your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher. If you want to schedule with any additional K-6 teachers, please contact them directly. This year our 7th & 8th teachers are offering office hours.

### ***Virtual Book Fair March 15 - 28***

Shop the Scholastic Book Fair... from home! Our book fair is virtual this year but there is still tons of great stuff available to build your students' home library. Proceeds go to keep building our in-school library and digital book selections. [The book fair goes live at this link](#) on Monday, March 15, and will be active through Sunday, March 28. We also have a limited number of scholarships available to families in need -- we want every child to enjoy the excitement of getting a book! Please email or ClassTag Library Media Specialist Ms. Kate BoJo ([k.bojo@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:k.bojo@wissahickoncharter.org)) for details.



### ***Save the Date - Honors Breakfast***

On Friday, March 26th, we will be hosting our Honors Assembly for students who earned Honors in trimester 2!! It will be a virtual assembly from 9-10am. Family invites, for students who will be honored, will be sent out early next week.

### ***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)

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

#### ***Vetri Cooking Classes***

Starting Monday March 15th, students in kindergarten through fifth grade will participate in Vetri's virtual cooking lessons. Students will engage in this virtual cooking series during

their different Specials classes once a week, for five weeks. **No materials are needed and students will go to their regularly scheduled Special's zoom classes for the Vetri lessons.** See below to find out what day your child will have their cooking instructions!

Mondays: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 512

Tuesdays: 2nd grade & 511

Thursdays: 3rd & 4th grades

### **EXTRAS:**

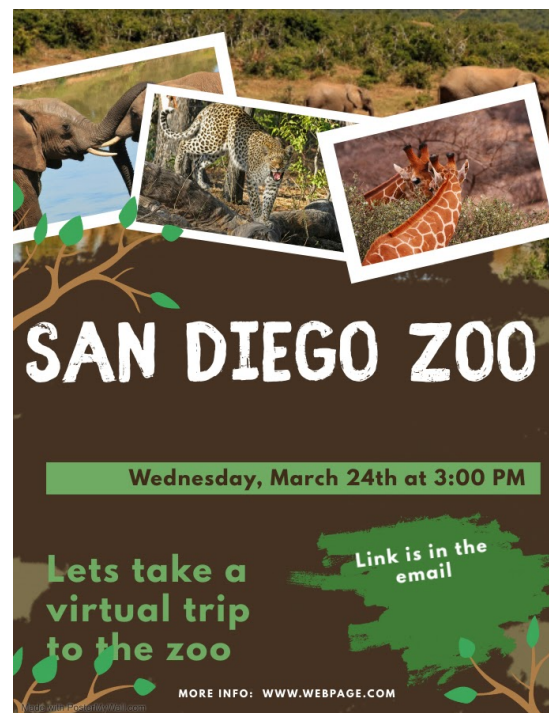
#### ***Whole School Celebration***

On March 24th we will be taking a virtual field trip to the San Diego Zoo at 3:00 PM. The zoom link is below

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95494841921?pwd=eFIFdkNoWEJ5b1NWRytTRkR0Tk9zQT09>

Meeting ID: 954 9484 1921 Password: tree



### ***CARES Champions!***

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

**K-5**

***Kindergarten: Logan Stanley*** has blossomed so much during Virtual Learning. He is always eager to participate and normally is one of the few students that always has his

hand up to answer a question or make a silly comment during our open discussions. He is such a sweet and warm student that brings light to our classroom. Logan keep up the great work!

**3rd Grade: Elijah Snow** has come a long way this school year. He has shown academic excellence by moving 4 reading levels since September and completing all seesaw assignments. Elijah has grown in responsibility and cooperation in Trimester 2, attending classes consistently and participating more in class discussions with both adults and peers. Elijah has great ideas, and we just love hearing from him. Keep it up Elijah!

**5th Grade: Joseph King** since the start of Remote Learning has showed academic excellence. He manages to complete or makes a full effort on assignments. Also, in breakout rooms Joseph takes on full leadership by facilitating or inspires other students to get on board. He always seeks out ways to help or ask for help if he does struggle. He is the point guard of his team.



This email was sent to [awbury@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:awbury@wissahickoncharter.org)

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