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Weekly Wissahickon 3/26/2021

1 message

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Fri, Mar 26, 2021 at 11:26 AM



Message from the Dean Kristi:

Dear Families,

As we head into spring break, I can't help but feel hopeful about what lies ahead. I know that this past year has been challenging in so many ways. I also know that this hardship isn't completely behind us. Still, with more and more people being vaccinated in the city and with the CDC's new guidelines that students can social distance safely at three feet (rather than the six feet that was previously recommended), it feels like there is a light at the tunnel.

Spring Plans and Looking to the Fall

For Wissahickon, as you know, we will launch our Remote Access Centers and our in person Kindergarten programs in April. The number of students coming in represents 25% of our total student body, which is a higher percentage than most schools in Philadelphia.

If we had more time in the year remaining, we would bring back additional grades or groups. Because of the timing, we do not have any plans to bring back additional students this year. Nonetheless, this work with this 25% is vitally important to every student and family as we plan for fall. This is the time to practice and refine all of the protocols that may still be needed when 100% of us are back together, as I have confidence we will be in September.

New Programs and Positions

As we work on planning our in person programs for this spring, we are also looking ahead to determine what will serve all students best when they return in the fall. Over the next two years, Wissahickon will receive federal funding to provide much needed support and programs. We are thinking about the emotional and academic toll that this time has taken on our children and the potential programs or positions needed to address it. We will want to hear from WCS families and students around this planning.

Consistency in Leadership

Finally, I want to share that every member of our Cross Site Leadership Team is returning next year. We have 14 people on this team with a combined 136 years of experience at our schools-- not in education-- at our schools. This kind of consistency in schools is incredibly rare. We stay because we get to partner with incredible colleagues and families doing work that really matters, serving children who we truly love, centering the values that we all believe in. The fact of this gives me real peace as we look ahead, even while things are still difficult.

Peace,
Kristi

Essential:

Important Dates:

March 29th-April 2nd - SPRING BREAK - SCHOOL CLOSED

April 9th - SCHOOL CLOSED for Professional Development

April 12th - First day of RAC (Remote Access Center) FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS ONLY!

April 26th - First day of in person Kindergarten

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) for details.



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

On Radar:

Give Kids A Smile Week 2021

Does your child need free dental care? The School District is partnering with PCCY for Give Kids a Smile Week during Spring Break, March 29 - April 2. Smile Week provides free dental care for children 0-18 years old, particularly children who are uninsured, underinsured, or haven't been to the dentist in over a year. This year dental care is also available on additional days throughout April.


Please call PCCY at 215-563-5848 extension 21 to make an appointment. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3eIPiMk>.

6th and 7th grade families - SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual High School Matters event will continue through Zoom this Spring to prepare our students for high school planning. Please join ONE of the 3 sessions offered. See attached! Browse our [WCS High School Matters](#) website to start the journey to high school planning!


HIGH SCHOOL MATTERS

All 6th and 7th grade students & families are invited to participate in our **virtual** High School Matters presentations! Come learn all about the different types of high schools and how to apply.




Mark your calendars to attend a **High School Matters** Zoom Session. We will offer 3 sessions - you only need to attend one. Please join by clicking [HERE](#) -


- Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm
- Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5:30 pm
- Friday, April 16, 2021 at 12:00 pm



7th grade families - have your child's [Fit Factor Worksheet](#) with you to discuss at the Zoom Meeting



Take a look at the [Types of High Schools "Cheat Sheet"](#) and bring your questions!



A Request from The Development Team

Hi Wissahickon Families! We are creating a newsletter to share with our donors and supporters which will showcase the many successes of this past year and we want to include YOUR experiences because you are the most important part of our school! This survey is completely **OPTIONAL** for those who want to participate! Thank you so much!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Xu6ZCco1NtW4as5unVxLVZfg12rod5osWWuHO4TaWw/edit>

EXTRAS:

Restorative Justice at Home Tip of the Week: Ask the Right Questions

After a conflict or disagreement, when both parent and child [or child and child!] are ready to talk, each person should have the chance to say their piece. Mody suggests the following five questions as a good starting point for the restorative process:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking/feeling at the time?
- What have you thought about since it happened?
- Who has been affected?
- What do you think needs to be done to make it right?

You may not need to use every question for every disagreement. The important point is to get to how each person experienced the disagreement or conflict, what each person felt,

and what each person needs to move forward.

<https://www.parenttoday.org/bringing-the-lessons-of-restorative-justice-home/>

2021 Freedom Schools Literacy Academy

Free Summer Literacy Program for Students in K-2

<https://airtable.com/shrYPGwKixN4f6OLS>

CARES Champions!

Congratulations to this week's CARES CHAMPIONS!

K-5

3rd Grade: Samantha Smith is a positive, hard-working, and responsible member of the 312 community. She is always ready to contribute, collaborate, or lend a hand when it's needed. Recently, Samantha put her CARES values into action by offering to lead a breakout room and show her classmates how to take screenshots for an activity. Samantha's CARES values were noticed by her teacher, and she was also nominated to be a CARES champion by a classmate. Awesome work, Samantha!

4th Grade: Amari Stalworth is an active and thoughtful participant in our classroom. Her cooperation and assertion have really helped us all in 412. Amari goes out of her way to help others (and her teacher) solve technical issues, and brings a positive and fun attitude to our Zoom room. Amari is always willing to work with a peer and she has really helped make 412 an amazing space. Thanks Amari!

6-8

6th Grade: Saeed Sullivan is truly one of a kind. Sixth grade can always count on Saeed to bring the energy and make us laugh, but he's so much more than that. Saeed thinks really creatively, listens actively, and sees our classwork in a unique way. We can't wait to see how Saeed continues to grow and lead the WCS community this year!



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