



FALL 2022 | VOL.2

Fox & Tree

A Newsletter for Friends of Wissahickon Charter School

A Note from Dean Kristi WCS Chief Executive Officer

We are marking our twentieth anniversary here at Wissahickon this year, and it's been great to be able to meet with everyone in person again! I recently had the opportunity to visit some of our Friends at Pennswood Village over lunch. Wissahickon has numerous supporters within the Pennswood community, and Bob and Peggy Anderson are among two of our most passionate advocates.



Bob and Peggy hosted the gathering at their home, allowing me the opportunity to give an update on how things are going in our corner of the world. I was so excited to be able to share some of the goals we have here at Wissahickon for the upcoming school year.

There are many reasons for me to be grateful in WCS's 20th year. I'm grateful for the outdoor learning that is a central part of our mission; I am grateful to work with a dedicated and caring group of educators on a daily basis; I'm grateful for the wonderful families who believe in the work we do here at WCS; And I am so grateful for supporters like Bob and Peggy Anderson and like you, who make all of the great work we do here possible.

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support!

Dean Kristi

P.S I imagine you are wondering, "Why in the world is Bob wearing a cow suit?" Bob explains, "It was St. Francis Day and, like St. Francis, WCS practices environmental stewardship, peacemaking and conflict resolution!" We love the lengths our supporters will go to in highlighting the amazing work done at our school!

Meet Our New Board Members

The Wissahickon Charter School Board of Trustees is proud to announce the addition of three new members to our Board. Pictured from left to right are Allora Buckshon, Erich Holland, and Ohenewaa White-Ra.

Our Board provides governance and fiduciary oversight, as well as assisting in the school's fundraising efforts. We are so grateful for their service. You can find a complete list of our Board members on the following page.





Wissahickon CHARTER SCHOOL

Kristi Littell, CEO
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Jane Walsh, Development
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www.wissahickoncharter.org

Fernhill Campus
4700 G Wissahickon Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Awbury Campus
815 E Washington Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19138

**"We Take Care of the
Earth That Takes
Care of Us"**



A Career Filled with Discovery: Liz Biagioli

Liz Biagioli began her career in 2003 at WCS, first as classroom teacher, and eventually, a Discovery teacher. Discovery class is a weekly class focused on nature and the environment. As someone who has "seen it all," we asked Liz to reflect on the ways WCS has grown over the last 20 years.

What are the biggest changes you've seen at WCS over the years?



The direction it is taking at meeting the whole person as they arrive and supporting the whole individual while building relationships. The foundation of this experience that we have at Wissahickon is built on relationships... The foundation of community here is so valuable. And everyone who engages with our school is part of that community.

What is the thing you are most proud of accomplishing at WCS?

I am most proud of developing our Forest School at the Awbury campus. We are taking student learning outdoors for that total hands on learning experience. When I've asked students over the last few weeks what they are most excited about, the kids respond that they are excited to do further investigations about insects that they find in the soil, or hearing the wind blow through the leaves, or to have time in their sit-spots. It makes me feel like we are doing great work.

In your opinion, what message about nature is most essential for children to learn?

It's essential to life itself. There is so much scientific study about the benefits of time in nature to humans and how that can enrich our lives. It affects everything from health and wellness to our ability to learn. We're trying to cultivate that sense of peace that nature brings to our kids.

Liz's work with the Discovery Program and providing our students with meaningful connections to the natural world is made possible because of support from donors like YOU! Thank you!

Stewardship Grows Under Hamilton Family Trust

Wissahickon Charter School is the proud recipient of a two-year \$50,000/year gift from the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust to support our Outdoor Program, which provides outdoor excursions, many overnight, to our students. Wissahickon's goal is to connect students with the Earth, so they become its stewards as they grow. We are grateful for organizations like the Hamilton Family Charitable Fund which make that goal a reality here at Wissahickon.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Giving Tuesday is November 29th!
Join the global generosity movement and make a gift to Wissahickon at <http://wissahickoncharter.org/giving>.

Ready to Recycle

Students in Mira Taichman's third grade classroom decided to take action to show that they care about the environment. They recently created recycling signs to hang in the hallways at Wissahickon's Fernhill Campus to show exactly what should go into a recycling bin.

Taking care of the earth is a key component of the mission at Wissahickon, and students learn to care about how their choices impact the earth. As Amir explained, "Our signs are supposed to make sure that kids don't put the wrong things in the trash cans. We want more people to recycle rather than throwing things away. Everybody should learn about taking care of the Earth." Well said, Amir!



20 Years From Now...

In honor of our 20th anniversary, we asked our kindergarten students what they believe they might be doing in 20 years. Their answers might surprise you!

I'll be at the park playing with my sister. ~Emarii



I'll still like unicorns. I'll be in the sky helping them. ~Chance



**I think I'm going to be making bacon and eggs because sometimes I do that with my mom.
~Markis**

I want to be a teacher just like you! ~Denver

I will swim underwater with my eyes open. ~Charli