



**Wissahickon**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL**

## Standing Together

Dear families,

There's much in national news right now that's controversial, confusing and concerning, including the recent ban on refugees and citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. Many government officials, including the now former Attorney General of the United States, do not believe this executive order is legal or in the spirit of American values.

We strive - and have an obligation - to create a school community in which all members feel included. We also have a responsibility to lead one that stands for justice for all, no matter race, gender, economic background, religion, nationality or other aspect of identity.

In these times when Arab and Muslim Americans may feel threatened by the rhetoric in the news, we stand with our many Muslim families.

We invite you to talk with us if you're concerned about a family member or friend who might be affected by this or other discriminatory policies, national or local. We can't promise solutions but can offer support, and an attempt to connect you with appropriate resources.

Finally, here are a few guidelines for talking with children & teens about stressful news, near and far.

- <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/explaining-the-news-to-our-kids#>
- <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/talking-to-children.aspx>

Children are incredibly observant and resilient. May we follow their lead.

Ms. Jenny Lunstead & Ms. Rebecca Benarroch  
Lower and Middle School Directors

Wrestlers on the Mat



## General news & announcements

### CARES Shout Outs Emphasizing Empathy

- Elliot W in 1st - Showing incredible empathy when sharing during a class meeting that he feels sad when students have to leave our classroom due to behavior because they are part of our class. ~ from Ms. Jenn
- Chrissy M in 3rd - When another student didn't have a pencil, Chrissy offered up her own for him to use. ~ from Ms. Angelica
- Abdur in 5th - Letting a younger student go ahead of him in line because he was worried about getting breakfast. ~ from Ms. Emily
- Amber J in 8th - Comforting her friend through a hard time. ~ from Ms. Jaide

### Wissahickon Reads...

Wissahickon Reads is a night for staff and students to come together and celebrate the magic of books! On Thursday, March 9th from 6-7:30pm, please join us on our own camping adventure right here at school! Teachers from each grade band have worked hard selecting books with a camping or outdoor adventure theme for your student to read in preparation for this evening and order forms have been sent home. There will be snacks, crafts, activities, a school-wide scavenger hunt, and a prize raffle. Every student will receive a homework pass just for attending! We hope to see you there! If you have any questions about the evening, contact [Ms. Jess](#)

### Next WPP Meeting: Wednesday, Feb 15th

### The African-American Children's Book Project

The annual African American book fair is at CCP on Saturday, Feb 4th, 2017. Check out this [link](#) for more information!

### "Fostering Resilience" discussion

Thursday, Feb 2nd, 2017 at 7pm, Penn Charter will be hosting a discussion on "Fostering Resilience". Check out this [flyer](#) for more information! Parents who plan to attend should let [Dean Kristi](#) know.

**Box Tops for Education = \$ for Discovery Class and the Outdoor Program**  
**DEADLINE IS COMING...Wednesday, February 22nd!**

The "Box Tops" are the small pink item found on many grocery items including *General Mills* cereals, *Welch's* jelly, *Old El Paso* items, *Kleenex* and *Scott* paper products, *Avery* office supplies and more!

Please, while you shop, keep an eye out for these. Clip them off and send them in with your child to drop off in the collection envelop on the bulletin board near the fish tank outside the lunchroom BY FEBRUARY 22ND! Thanks in advance for the support!

**From the Development Office:**

As you do online shopping on Amazon, visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Wissahickon Charter School as your preferred organization. Each time you shop on the site, Wissahickon will receive 0.5% of most purchases.

## **For Lower School**

### **Winter Jacket Drive**

The Lower School Student Council is holding a Winter Jacket drive this week. Send in any clean, wearable jackets your family no longer needs. WCS families who are in need of jackets are welcome to come on Friday to Room 201 between 3:30-5:00 to shop! Any leftover jackets on Friday will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Thanks for all your help!

## **For Middle School**

### **7th/8th Math Teacher Update**

We are thrilled to let you know that Ms. Donna Green has accepted the 7th & 8th grade math teacher position, and will begin teaching this coming Monday, February 6. 8th graders who took part in her demonstration lesson were very enthusiastic about her teaching. She will be in touch with families directly in the coming days.

### **High School Acceptances**

8th grade families should expect to hear from the School District of Philadelphia this week with high school offers. Please be in touch with [Ms. Allyson](#) if you need support in making an informed decision AND/OR to let us know what school you choose. Your response to the district is REQUIRED per instructions in the email you'll get.

Please also email [Ms. Allyson](#) with any charter or private school acceptances. We are putting up our high school all-stars board and want to make sure it's accurate. We also want to celebrate the good news!

## 6th Grade

- Homeroom teachers: [Mr. Josh](#) (601) & [Ms. Thomas](#) (602).
- Daily homework updates [here](#).

## 7th Grade

- Homeroom teachers: [Ms. Izzy](#) (701) & [Ms. Sandler](#) (702)
- Daily homework updates [here](#).

## 8th Grade

- Homeroom teachers: [Mr. C.](#) (801) & [Ms. Polite](#) (802)
- Daily homework updates [here](#).
- High school charter application deadlines are [here](#). See email from Ms. Allyson for details.

### Basketball Players on the Court



### Important Dates

Thurs. 2/1: Kindergarten trip (play @ Keswick 9:15am-1pm)

Fri. 2/3: 12:45pm EARLY DISMISSAL

Girls B-ball vs. West Oak Lane (4:15pm-5:15pm)

Boys B-ball vs. West Oak Lane (4:15pm-5:15pm)

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Tues. 2/7: Girls B-ball vs. Independence @ WCS (4:15pm-5:15pm)

Boys B-ball vs. Independence @ WCS (5:15pm-6:15pm)

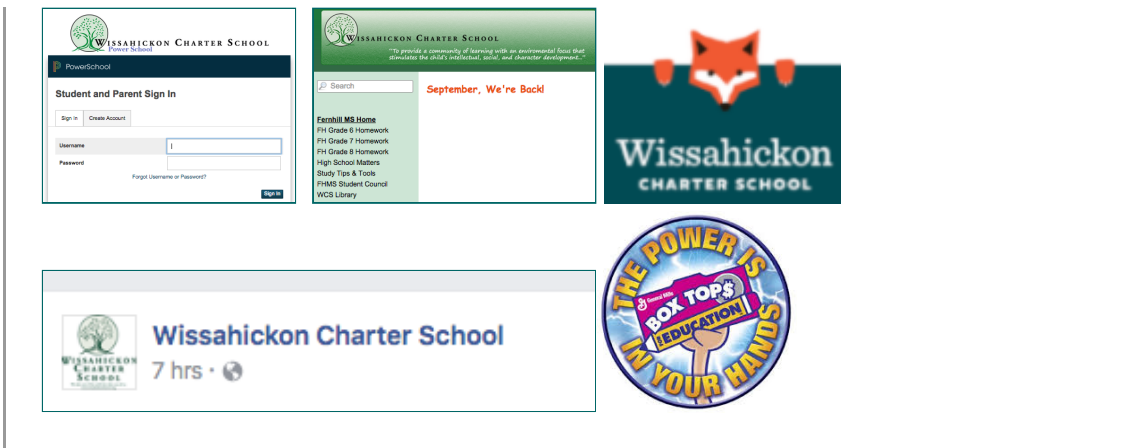
Wed. 2/8: 3rd grade field trip to Drexel Medical Sch. (12:30pm-3pm)

Thurs. 2/9: MS Boys College

Boys B-ball vs. Alliance @ WCS (4:15pm-5:15pm)

Check out [this amazing calendar of family events](#) this year. Thank you, WPP!

### Links We Love!



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