



**Wissahickon**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL**

## **Preparing for the PSSA's**

As winter turns to an early spring, we can begin to see PSSA testing on the horizon for 3rd-8th grade. At Wissahickon, we strive to find a balance between ensuring our students are well-prepared to do their best on standardized tests, while not allowing testing to drive all aspects of our learning all year. One way we do this in reading is to set aside a unit to study the test itself. Much like students may study poetry, nonfiction, or biography, in the spring they study how to read test passages and think like a test-taker. We believe this unit prepares students not only to succeed on the PSSA, but on the many types of standardized tests they will take throughout their school careers. At home, we need your help making sure your child still has time every night to read books that they enjoy -- books that they choose and that are on their reading level -- so please help us help them by keeping reading logs going through this testing season.

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

**Fernhill Wrestlers Place in All Events!**



## General news & announcements

### CARES Shout Outs

- To Masai, Kendall, Kev, Anise, Dashae, and Joseph for Empathy from Ms. Jaide -- All 6 of these students stepped up in the classroom by helping quiet down students so we were able to start our lesson.

- To 402 for Academic Excellence from Ms. Carlton -- For showing resilience during CDT testing and for pushing themselves to do their best even when it felt hard.
- To Khalid Harris for Responsibility from Mr. K -- He helped clean up somebody else's mess without even being asked.
- To Aasha Parsons, Jelani Carter, Le-Nya Elliott, Jordan Weatherbe, Shamar Nelson, Tayonna Taylor, and Kam Fortune for Responsibility from Ms. Mary and Ms. Carlee -- For cooperation, responsibility and self-control during the Code Monarch Drill. They were excellent role models to the kindergarten students on how to behave during this drill. They showed extra self-control with having to do this drill in a room that was not theirs. Nicely done!

### **Learning Support Department**

Every six years the Special Education Department is monitored by the state for compliance. This year is our monitoring. One piece is to survey parents about services. IF your child has an IEP, please take 5 minutes to complete this survey. All feedback is valuable and we appreciate your time. The survey can be completed [here](#).

Thank you,

Michele Ferrante, Director of Learning Support

### **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](#).

### **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**

### **Lower School Dress Down Days This Week**

Students are encouraged to dress with the following themes:

- Wed, Monochromatic day (same color)
- Thurs, Decades day
- Fri, Barack or Michelle Obama day

Students can lose the privilege if they're not acting responsibly. Teachers will be in touch if this is the case. (Hope not!)

## For Middle School

### Congratulations to the Middle School art award winners for January!

- Academic achievement: Aailyah Brown, Francis Gavin, Teora Milson, Shanaira Clark, Seyana Henderson, Caprice Nolan, Caleb Autry, Ryiese Randolph and Alaina Tomlinson
- All-around growth: Brent Bryant, Makaila McKnight, Hanif Vann, Sir-Ron Burris, Sage Green, Saulih Khalifah, Nassier Jordan, Sydella Kindle and Ty'ril Taylor

### 12 school days left in Trimester 2!

Middle school students need to make every moment count. This is the time when 6th graders become eligible for different scholarship programs, 7th graders show high schools how serious they are about learning, and 8th graders maintain strong learning habits to carry into high school. It's also the time when we all start getting ready for PSSAs. We want every student to do their best!

### MS Dance, Friday, February 24, 6-8pm

Student Council presents the second dance of the year! Families, please pick up your children by 8pm or be available by phone to confirm that they can take SEPTA.

### Surprise Special Event for February! Shhhh.

This earned \*surprise\* trip will take place during school on Thursday, March 9, the last day of Trimester 2. It is also a Dress Down Day for all students. Students must have all Cs or better (no C-s), fewer than 3 TAB Outs, and no discipline referrals from February 1 - March 6. Students' grades will be counted as of Monday, March 6. No exceptions.

## 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](#).
- New Info.: High school charter application deadlines are [here](#). See email from Ms. Allyson for details.

More Wrestling Pics from This Weekend's Meet at South Philly HS





## Important Dates

Wed. 2/22: "A Better Chance" info session (6pm-7pm)

Thurs. 2/23: MS Boys College(12:30pm-1pm)

Fri. 2/24: 5th grade History Hunters field trip (12:30pm-2:30pm)  
MS Dance (6pm-8pm)

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Tues. 2/28; 4th grade art trip PMA

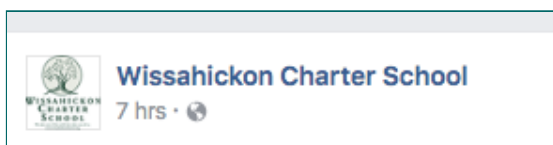
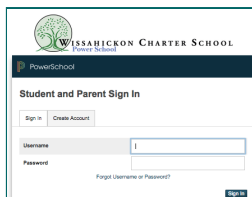
LAST DAY for applications for upcoming school year 2017-2018 by 5pm

Thurs. 3/2; 4th grade trip to Belmont Drinking facility(9am-12:30pm)

Fri. 3/3; 2nd grade & Kindergarten trip to play at Irvine Auditorium (9:30am-12:30pm)  
6th grade trip to Philadelphia Museum of Art (10:30am-1:45pm)

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

## Links We Love!



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