



WEEKLY WISSAHICKON

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Families: The Lower School Honor Roll celebration will be on Wednesday, March 29th from 9-10am. Middle School's will be on Thursday, March 30th from 9-10am.

Also, the WCS 3rd graders are having an art exhibit! Ms. Tamara has worked with our 3rd grade students to create ceramic sculptures of animals and, Arcadia University art students will be creating the habitats for the animals and placing them in the Awbury Arboretum. The opening reception will be on Saturday, April 1st from 1-4pm. Please join us in celebrating our artists! See attached flyer for more info.

Ms. O'Shea

8th grade class fees are past due! Graduation fees are \$275.00 per student. Please follow up with me via email, g.minor@wissahickoncharter.org or phone, 267-774-4370 ext. 2259 ASAP. Thank you.

Also, for any Middle School girls who are interested in participating, please see the attached flyer regarding the 2017 Girls Climate Summit.

Ms. Gina

FROM THE ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Dear Families: Please save the dates for our upcoming PSSA testing days. Also, please see below for PSSA testing policies and guidelines.

- Tuesday, April 4th-Friday, April 7th (English/Language Arts: Grades 3-8)
- Tuesday, April 25th-Thursday, April 27th (Mathematics: Grades 3-8)
- Tuesday, May 2nd-Wednesday, May 3rd (Awbury)/Wednesday, May 3rd-Thursday, May 4th (Fernhill(Science: Grades 4 and 8))

Mr. Paul

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

We are still collecting Box Tops for Education to help raise funds to support our various classes and programs. While you shop, keep an eye out for the small pink items found on many grocery items. Clip them off and send them in with your child to drop off in the collection bin in the office.

We are also still collecting any slightly used footwear and donating them to our Shoe Box Recycling program. All donations will help raise funds to support WCS and all of our wonderful classes and programs. Thank you for your support!

Ms. Shonda and Mr. Justin

FROM THE WPP

- Our Yankee Candle fundraiser ends on Thursday, March 30th. Please make sure your child returns the order form with payments to the school by this date.
- It's Talent Show Time! Participation forms are now available at the front office for students (and staff) interested in performing. Completed forms must be returned to the school no later than Monday, April 3rd. The show will be held on Friday, May 19th at 6:30pm in the school gymnasium.
- Our Spring School Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 8th at 9:00am. Bring your yard tools and a pair of gloves and help keep our school grounds beautiful!

Please contact the Wissahickon Parent Partnership at WPPAwbury@gmail.com.

Join us on Facebook at Wissahickon Parent Partnership-Awbury Campus. Thank you!

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

We rely on the generosity of friends and family like you to preserve the programs that make Wissahickon a magical place to come to school-Discovery class, a fully-stocked library, extracurriculars, and much more!

We are so grateful to you for all the ways you support your students and the Wissahickon Charter community. As you visit the school this week to learn about your student's progress, consider making a gift to the Wissahickon Charter School Annual Fund.

You can make your gift in person this week with cash or check. Alternatively, you can make a gift right now with your credit card on our website.

Also, if your child(ren) are interested in attending a Day Camp during our Spring Break, please see the attached flyer below.

Ms. Allie & Ms. Anne

EXTRA CLOTHES

Dear Families: If you have gently used school uniforms, particularly blue jean or sweat bottoms, sizes 6-12 for boys and girls, please donate to the school. Sometimes, we may need spare clothes for our little ones. If you have clothes that do not fit and want to donate them to the school, you will be able to swap them for clothes that fit. Thank you.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday, March 29th, 9:00-10:00am: Lower School Honor Roll Celebration**
- **Thursday, March 30th, 9:00-10:00am: Middle School Honor Roll Celebration**
- **Thursday, March 30th: Deadline to return Yankee Candle order forms and payments**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **If your child is sick, please keep him/her home until illness ends.**
- **All students are considered late as of 8:21am everyday.**
- **Our early dismissal cut-off times are 2:30pm on regular dismissal days and 11:45am on half days.**
- **In the event your child(ren) are picked up after 3:45pm and 1:00pm on half days, you will be charged \$1 per minute.**

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK #28

Save trees. Go paperless. Consider reading your newspaper and magazine subscriptions online. Switch to electronic banking and credit card payment too. *Have any Green Tips you want to share? Then send them to jtrot@wissahickoncharter.org.*

CREATURE COMFORTS

A Collaborative Art Exhibition
@ Awbury Arboretum

SPRING 2017

Opening Reception:
April 1st, 1pm - 4pm

Students enrolled in Studio Art Foundations at Arcadia University will create habitats and homes incorporating ceramic animal sculptures created by 3rd grade students at Wissahickon Charter School. The two dozen collaborative works will be installed throughout the grounds of the Awbury Arboretum in the spring of 2017 and can be found through a scavenger hunt experience. Looking for the turtle sculpture and habitat? Head to the pond. How about the bird sculptures and homes? Walk over to the field. This exciting community project promises to be an engaging and dynamic experience for all viewers!

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Opening reception will feature an artists' reception and "Animal Engineers" presentation by the Delaware Natural History Museum.

ARCADIA
UNIVERSITY

The Philadelphia
Cultural Fund

WISSAHICKON
CHARTER
SCHOOL

AWBURY ARBORETUM

LONGWOOD
GARDENS
Community Pool
Read. Think. Imagine.



Dear Wissahickon Charter School Parent/Guardian:

Your child or children will participate in the PSSA assessment this year. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about the PSSA.

Which students take the assessments?

Except for a very few students who meet specific criteria for participation in an alternate assessment, all students are included in the assessments as outlined below:

English and Language Arts (ELA) – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Mathematics – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Science – Grades 4 and 8

When are the tests?

ELA April 4-7	Math April 25-27	Science May 2-3
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Are there any changes from other years?

This year is the second year that the ELA and Math tests are aligned with the PA Core Standards. The assessment has not changed significantly from last year.

How long does the assessment take?

Testing will last between one and two hours each morning. The test is not timed so students may take as long as they need to finish.

How can I help my child prepare?

- Make sure your child goes to bed early.
- Make sure your child gets a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Make sure your child gets positive encouragement at home.
- Make sure your child does his or her best on the test and takes it seriously.
- Make sure your child comes to school everyday and on time.

May parents see the assessments?

Parents and guardians may review the assessments by making arrangements with the School Assessment Coordinator. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the assessments or notes about assessment items will be permitted to leave the school.

(over)

wissahickoncharter.org

Fernhill Campus

Wissahickon Charter School
4700 G Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144
267.338.1020

Awbury Campus

Wissahickon Charter School
815 E Washington Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19138
267.774.4370



If after reviewing the test parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their student (s) to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection.

Are cell phones or other electronic devices allowed while testing?

Absolutely not. Please review the PDE policy regarding cell phones and electronic devices at <http://wissahickoncharter.org/uploads/attachments/cj0sex2wx0dniv4fau8y18n4r-pde-cell-phone-policy.pdf>. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that possession of a cell phone during the PSSA administration will result in certain consequences in addition to the student needing to retake the entire exam.

What if my child is absent?

It is very important for your child to participate in the assessment. If your child is absent, they will miss class to make up any missed sections during the makeup window which is May 8th-May 12th

What if I have more questions?

Please contact the school at 267-774-4370.

More information on the assessments can also be found on our website at:

<http://wissahickoncharter.org/uploads/attachments/cj0sew5mw0dnfv4fai4bwm82u-pssa-parent-letter-for-website.pdf>

Thank you for your support!

wissahickoncharter.org

Fernhill Campus	Awbury Campus
Wissahickon Charter School	Wissahickon Charter School
4700 G Wissahickon Avenue	815 E Washington Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144	Philadelphia, PA 19138
267.338.1020	267.774.4370



Dear Parent/Guardian:

In an era of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can be easily compromised. Not only is it expensive to replace a compromised test item, the material contained in the PSSA and Keystone Exams is copyrighted property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Copying or duplicating the material from the assessment, including the taking of a photograph of secure assessment material, is a violation of the federal Copyright Act. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).

In order to ensure reliable test results and to avoid the cost of replacing test items, the Department of Education requires schools to set rules and take certain steps to protect test materials. Electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPods, tablets, camera-ready devices, and any other electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the internet and/or communicate with others during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams are not permitted in any testing site. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that the possession and/or use of a cell phone or other electronic device during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams will result in consequences.

You will be contacted by the school if your child is discovered using and/or having a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams. Students who ignore this directive will be subject to the school's discipline policy and the Department of Education's requirement that the student's test will not be scored and the student will be required to retake the entire exam. The electronic device will be held by school staff, and the device's stored photographs and other functions will be examined with your permission. You may request to be present when the electronic device is examined. If a photograph of the PSSA or Keystone Exam is discovered or if permission to search other functions of the electronic device is refused, the device will be held by the school staff. The Pennsylvania Department of Education holds the copyright to all material contained within the PSSA and Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be contacted and further action may be taken.

If, after testing is complete and test materials have been returned, it is discovered that a student used and/or had a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's scores will be invalidated.

How are written responses to constructed-response items scored?

The written responses for English Language Arts are scored by evaluators trained in applying an ELA-specific scoring guideline. For short-answer questions, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process. For writing prompts, scores are determined using a holistic scoring guideline that includes composition skills as well as conventions. Responses to text-dependent analysis questions are scored based on both content and writing skills.

What is assessed in English Language Arts?

The English Language Arts assessment addresses six major reporting categories as well as two text types. Students respond to a writing prompt and standalone multiple-choice items assessing language. Additionally, students read a number of passages from literature and informational genres and respond to questions about these passages that indicate both comprehension and reading skills and the students' analysis and interpretation of different types of texts.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT (grades 3 through 8)**How long does the assessment take?**

The entire mathematics assessment takes approximately three to four hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

What does the assessment include?

Each student completes three sections of questions for the mathematics assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

What types of questions are on the assessment?

Students respond to two types of questions: multiple-choice and open-ended. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from the four presented options, while open-ended questions require students to compose their responses. Open-ended questions generally require students to provide detail in support of their answers (such as showing or describing the steps performed to complete a calculation).

How are written responses to open-ended items scored?

The written responses for mathematics open-ended items are scored by evaluators trained in applying a mathematics-specific scoring guideline. In mathematics, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

What is assessed in Mathematics?

The mathematics assessment addresses five major reporting categories across four clusters. The reporting categories assessed and the proportion of questions in each reporting category vary by grade level. As a part of the assessment of Cluster A, Numbers and Operations, students in grades 4 through 8 respond to a set of questions without a calculator. Constructed-response items may require the students to show all of their work (e.g., calculations, graphs, drawings) and/or to explain in writing how they solved the problems.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (grades 4 and 8)**How long does the assessment take?**

The entire science assessment takes approximately two to four hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

What does the assessment include?

Students in grades 4 and 8 complete two sections of questions for the science assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

What types of questions are on the assessment?

Students respond to two types of questions: multiple-choice and open-ended. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from the four presented options, while open-ended questions require students to compose their responses. At grade 8, the science assessment also includes science scenarios.

What is a science scenario?

A science scenario contains text, graphics, charts, and/or tables and uses these elements to describe the results of a class project, an experiment, or other similar research. Students use the information found in a science scenario to answer multiple-choice questions.

How are written responses to open-ended items scored?

The written responses for science open-ended items are scored by evaluators trained in applying a science-specific scoring guideline. In science, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

What is assessed in science?

The science assessment addresses the four major reporting categories: The Nature of Science, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences. The proportion of items in each reporting category varies by grade level.



Spring Break Day Camp



Boys & Girls Grades K-8!



If you build it, they will come! Come spend your week exploring the outdoors at Camp Shelly Ridge! This week off of school will be a blast!

Mon, Apr. 10–Fri, Apr. 14
9 am–3 pm

FULL WEEK \$215/camper
DAILY \$50/camper



Activities may include:

- rock wall
- archery
- film canister rockets
- arts & crafts
- gaga
- hiking

Shelly Ridge Program Center
330 Manor Rd., Miquon 19444

Register at www.gsep.org/online-registration!

Click 'Register Now.' Log in or create an account.
Enter 'Spring Break Day Camp' in the search bar
and select to register.

Need help registering? Email memberservices@gsep.org.





GIRLS CLIMATE SUMMIT 2017

WHAT

The Girls Climate Summit is a one-day FREE conference that focuses on the immediate impacts of climate change in the Philadelphia area.

WHEN

Saturday April 22nd, 2017
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

WHERE

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy
8000 Cherokee Street, Philadelphia PA 19118
SEPTA's Chestnut Hill West - St. Martin's Station

WHO

Middle and high school girls from the greater Philadelphia region

WHY

Eat awesome local food. Meet other interesting, passionate students. Learn from local and global speakers about the effects of climate change on our city and world. Create your own climate action plan to improve your life, school, and city. Build a network of local climate leaders!

SIGN UP NOW.

Register for the Girls Climate Summit 2017 by typing "Girls Climate Summit 2017" in the Eventbrite search-bar.

Like the Facebook Page: Girls Climate Summit

Questions?

EMAIL: girlscimatesummit@gmail.com

PHONE: 610-730-3506

March Breakfast 2017 Menu

Monday

Tuesday

Thursday

Friday

6 French Toast
Sticks
Whole Fruit
Milk
Syrup

7 Assorted Cold
Cereal w/ Graham
Crackers
Whole Fruit
Milk

8 Fresh Baked
Chocolate Chip
Muffin w/ Yoqurt
Whole Fruit
Milk

9 Toasted Whole
Grain Waffles
Whole Fruit
Milk
Svrup

10 Assorted
Breakfast Rounds
Whole Fruit
Milk

13 Assorted Cold
Cereal w/ Graham
Crackers
Whole Fruit
Milk

14 Whole Grain Mini
Pancakes
Whole Fruit
Milk

15 Fresh Baked
Blueberry Muffin
w/ Yoqurt
Whole Fruit
Milk

16 Scrambled Eggs,
Home Fries &
Whole Grain
English Muffin
Whole Fruit
Milk

17 Mini Alphabet
Treats w/ Go Gurt
Whole Fruit
Milk

20 French Toast
Sticks
Whole Fruit
Milk
Svrup

21 Honey Wheat
Bagel w/ Cream
Cheese
Whole Fruit
Milk

22 Fresh Baked
Chocolate Chip
Muffin w/ Yoqurt
Whole Fruit
Milk

23 Assorted Benefit
Bars
Whole Fruit
Milk

24 Breakfast
Sandwich
Whole Fruit
Milk

27 Popcorn Chicken
& Waffles
Whole Fruit
Milk

28 Egg & Cheese
English Muffin
Whole Fruit
Milk

29 Fresh Baked
Chocolate Chip
Muffin w/ Yoqurt
Whole Fruit
Milk

30 Honey Wheat
Bagel w/ Cream
Cheese
Whole Fruit
Milk

31 Assorted
Breakfast Rounds
Whole Fruit
Milk

March Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Macaroni & Cheese Chilled Black Bean & Corn Salad Whole Fruit Milk	2 General Tso's Chicken Broccoli Whole Fruit Milk	3 Cheese Pizza Roasted Baby Carrots Whole Fruit Milk
6 Fresh Vegetable Stir Fry w/ Brown Rice Roasted Oriental Vegetables Whole Fruit Milk	7 Waffle Chicken Salad Sandwich Seasoned French Fries Whole Fruit Milk	8 Turkey Burger Chilled Black Bean & Corn Salad Whole Fruit Milk Ketchup	9 Cheeseburger Chilled Baby Carrots Whole Fruit Milk Ranch Dressing Ketchup	10
13 Breakfast for Lunch French Fries Whole Fruit Ketchup Syrup	14 Macaroni & Cheese Collard Greens Juice Whole Fruit Milk	15 Roasted Chicken and Tortellini Pasta Salad Three Bean Salad Whole Fruit Milk	16 National School Breakfast Week Theme Meal Apple Pie Smoothie Garlic and Herb Roasted Potatoes Whole Fruit Milk Ketchup	17 Cheese Pizza Garlic Green Beans Juice Whole Fruit Milk
20 Fresh Vegetable Stir Fry w/ Brown Rice Roasted Oriental Vegetables Whole Fruit Milk	21 Chicken Alfredo w/ Breadstick Lemon Garlic Spinach Whole Fruit Milk	22 Waffle Chicken Salad Sandwich Seasoned French Fries Whole Fruit Milk	23 Turkey Enchilada Bake Orange Glazed Carrots Whole Fruit Milk	24 Cheeseburger Savory Baked Beans Whole Fruit Milk
27 Ravioli w/ Marinara Parmesan Broccoli Whole Fruit Milk	28 Chicken Fajitas Salsa Seasoned Corn Whole Fruit Milk	29 Cheesesteak Sandwich Savory Baked Beans Whole Fruit Milk Ketchup	30 General Tso's Chicken Oriental Vegetables Whole Fruit Milk	31 Cheese Pizza Chilled Baby Carrots Juice Whole Fruit Milk Ranch Dressing



WISSAHICKON CHARTER SCHOOL



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You are currently receiving this email because you have a child at the WCS Awbury campus and/or you are an Awbury staff member.

Our mailing address is:

Wissahickon Charter School
Awbury Campus
815 E. Washington Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19138

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