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Dear families,

With report card conferences coming up Wednesday (tomorrow) through Friday, K-6th grade families will soon be hearing about your child's reading level. With that in mind, we are reprinting this piece from last year: How does WCS determine reading level and what does it mean?

At WCS we measure reading levels using two assessments: The Teachers College Assessment (or TC Assessment) for students reading below a second-grade reading level, and the Independent Reading Assessment (IRA) for students reading above a second-grade level. A child taking the TC assessment reads a picture book to his or her teacher, and then orally retells the story and answers some questions. A child taking an IRA reads a chapter book and writes their responses to a series of comprehension questions.

Both assessments are individualized -- your child takes the assessment at their own pace and on their own level. Both assessments are also standardized -- teachers use the same books and scoring guides that are used at schools around the country. And both assessments measure independent reading level - the level at which your child can read a real book and understand it deeply, without any adult assistance.

A reading level is just a letter; it doesn't tell us everything about a reader. It doesn't tell us whether they love to read in bed with a flashlight, or prefer graphic novels or nonfiction. However, a reading level is an important letter because it helps us match each child to books that he or she can read comfortably and independently. It is reading these books -- books that are not too easy, but not too hard -- that best enables readers to grow.

Jenny Lunstead  
Lower School Director

4th grade hiking fun!



## General News & Announcements

### The Gift of Giving

We are so grateful to you for all the ways you support your students and the Wissahickon community. As you visit the school next week to learn about your student's progress, consider making a gift to the Wissahickon Charter School Annual Fund. We are especially excited to announce that **the Board has agreed to match gifts to the Annual Fund made during report card conferences at 100% up to \$2,000!** That means you can double the impact of your gift when you give to the Annual Fund during report card conferences! You can make your gift in person with cash, check, or credit card. Alternatively, you can make a gift right now with your credit card [here](#).

With gratitude,

The Development Team

P.P.S. As you shop for the holidays, visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Wissahickon Charter School as your preferred organization. Each time you shop with AmazonSmile, WCS will receive 0.5% of most purchases!

P.P.S. Thank you for helping your student to sell raffle tickets for the Electric Fireplace & Media Mantel. Please submit all ticket stubs and money by Friday, December 15th.

### Cooking with Vetri

Please join us for our first caregiver/parent cooking & nutrition class on December 12, 2017. There will be two sessions held here at the Fernhill Campus and please note that space is limited and this is an adult event. For more information and to RSVP please click [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

### Late Pick-up Fee

Please be reminded that late pick up enforcement charge will be \$1 a minute starting at 3:45pm on regular dismissals and 1pm on early dismissals.

### Green Tip of the Week

For businesses: Reuse and refill empty inkjet and toner cartridges. \*Thank you to Fernhill 8th grader Francis Bradshaw for our Green tips. Have a green tip you want to share? Send them to [j.jolley@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:j.jolley@wissahickoncharter.org)  
Ms. Jolley

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## For Lower School

No lower school updates this week.

## For Middle School

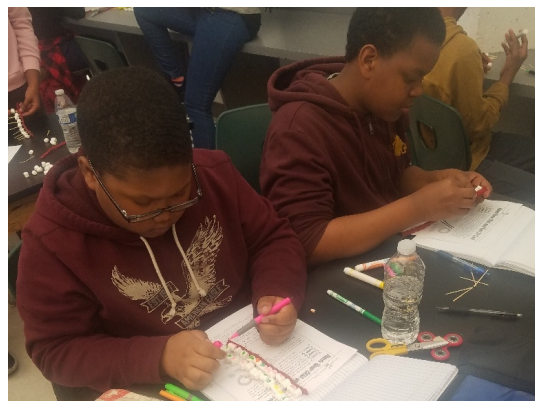
### **Middle School Decades Dance, Friday, Dec 8, 6-8pm**

Families, please pick up kids at 8pm sharp. It's really important for staff who chaperone to be able to get home quickly after the dance is over. Thanks!

### **8th Grade Conferences**

Reminder to all 8th grade families: Students will be leading conferences and must attend with you.

Showing off 7th grade art and 8th grade DNA projects in science!



## Important Dates

Dec 6-8th- Report card conferences, 12:45 Dismissals

Dec 8th- Middle School Decades Dance, 6-8pm

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Dec 14th- Middle school honors breakfast  
Dec 14th- 4th grade field trip to Morris Arboretum at 9:30am  
Dec 15th- Lower school honors breakfast  
Dec 15th- 12:45pm Early Dismissal



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