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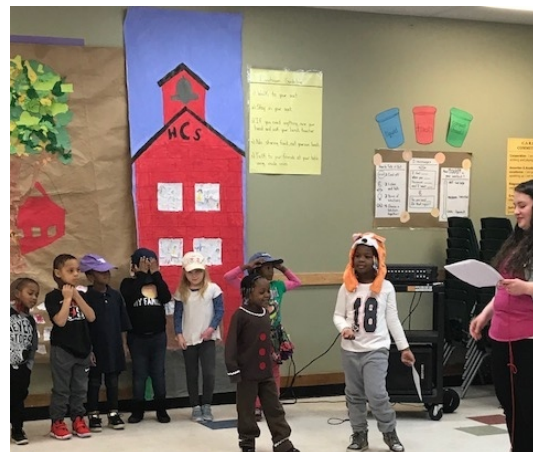
Dear families,

These last few days before Winter Break are packed with special activities and events -- publishing parties, field trips, the annual kindergarten play (see pictures below). Students are buzzing with energy and eager for the time off, and teachers are too. Not only does Winter Break bring rest and relaxation, it also brings the fresh start of a new year. For teachers, this means a chance to reset expectations, change routines that weren't quite working, and dive into new and increasingly rich academic units. For students, it can be a moment for making resolutions about the kind of learning they hope to do, and the kind of learners they hope to be, in the new year.

While you enjoy some quality time together over these weeks, please also set your child up for success on their return by making sure they have the time and space to read each day. K-8 families, catch a pic of your child reading over break and send it to Ms. Jenny ([lunstead@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:lunstead@wissahickoncharter.org)) with the subject line "caught reading" for a chance at a prize. And 1st-5th grade families, see below for some exciting information about a new online math resource your children can use to practice over the break as well!

Jenny Lunstead  
Lower School Director

Kindergarten gingerbread play! Good job!





## General News & Announcements

### From the Development Office

We are thrilled by the outpouring of support we received during the Winter Raffle. The winner has been drawn and notified. Together we raised over \$1,500 to sustain the programs that make Wissahickon such a special place to come to school. Thank you to everyone who participated!

### Two new After School Clubs beginning in January!

- Chess Club and Scrabble Club will be starting after winter break. It will be free of charge and open to all 3rd-5th grade students after school on **Monday's from 3:30-4:30**
- Tournament opportunities will be offered!
- It will be led by Ms. Pnina (WCS speech language therapist) and her husband Mr. Sorin
- Please keep your eye out for permission slips that will come home the week after break.
- Students must have transportation home at **4:30** in order to participate.

### Morning drop-off

Families:

As a reminder the doors to the school open at 8am. Please don't drop your students off before then, especially during the winter months. The school does not have staffing to monitor students before school, and we are concerned about students standing out in the cold for long periods of time. I thank you in advance, and if you have questions please contact me at the school.

Dean Jamal

### Early pick-up procedure

Please be advised that early pick-up is over after 2:30pm and 11:30am on a scheduled early dismissal day. If there is an emergency, please call ahead so that we can have the children ready for arrival. Please also note that children can not be dismissed without the presence of a parent or approved adult along with a signature and ID. In the event there is a change in pick up, i.e. on or off the bus, please call the front office by 2:45 to ensure we are able to relay the message to the student.

### Picture re-take day

WCS Picture Re-take Day will be on Friday, January 5th. If you are interested in having your child(ren) take their photo over, please bring in your initial set of un-cut pictures or, if your child(ren) did not take pictures on the first Picture Day, make sure you complete a picture form available at the office.

### 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

Did you know? The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load, whereas newer,

high efficiency models use less than 28 gallons of water per load. Thank you to Fernhill 8th grader Francis Bradshaw for our green tip. Do you or your student 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

### New Online Math Program

WCS has purchased DreamBox Learning's Math Program, an online, Intelligent Adaptive Learning program that helps all students achieve better, faster math proficiency. DreamBox is an online program - there's no software to download! Your student can access DreamBox Learning from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using this link:

<https://play.dreambox.com/login/puw5/wissahickoncs>

DreamBox can also be used as an iPad app. Search for "DreamBox Math" in the App Store, and download DreamBox Math Green and DreamBox Math Blue to ensure your student has access to the full catalog of lessons. When prompted in the app, use this School Code: puw5/wissahickoncs

Your child will need their username and password, which they should have received from their teacher. Please contact the teacher if your child does not know or remember their password.

## For Middle School

### Staff Transitions

We are bittersweet to share that 6th grade math and science teacher, Ms. Jaleesa Thomas's last day will be tomorrow. She will be moving to Ecuador, which has been a personal dream for awhile. Also, Ms. Thalia Patrinos, 6th-8th math and science apprentice teacher is moving to Texas to work at NASA. Very luckily, we have already hired two wonderful educators for their positions: Ms. Anni Tacchino (Ms. T) is stepping in for Ms. Thomas, and Ms. Storm Foreman (Ms. Foreman) is taking over for Ms. Patrinos. Both of them started this week.

### 8th Grade End of Year Events

Reminder to families of 8th graders: If your child has a second consecutive month (after the warning month) with multiple adults concerned about her/his behavior, s/he will lose one of their end of year events. Contact Ms. Rebecca or Ms. G. if you have any questions.

Middle school honors breakfast and fun at the 87'ers game!





## Important Dates

Dec 21st - Jan 2nd - Winter Recess, School Closed

Dec 22nd - Boys Bball vs St Raymonds @ Springside Chestnut Hill at 6:15p

Dec 23rd- Boys Bball vs GLA @ Springside Chestnut Hill at 11:15am

Dec 23rd- Boys Bball vs St Raymonds @ Springside Chestnut Hill at 3pm



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