



Walsh, Jane <j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org>

Weekly Wissahickon 4-16-2021

1 message

WCS-Fernhill <fh.frontoffice@wissahickoncharter.org>
Reply-To: WCS-Fernhill <fh.frontoffice@wissahickoncharter.org>
To: Jane Walsh <j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org>

Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 9:02 AM

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Message from CEO

Dear Families,

This week has been a busy one at school. We opened our Remote Access Centers this past Monday and it has been wonderful to see some students in person. This group of families, staff, and students will help lead the way when we all return to in person learning in the fall. We're looking forward to welcoming Kindergarten families who have opted in to in-person learning back on Monday, April 26th.

In May we will be holding our annual Title I Parent meeting. WCS receives Title I funds from, the Federal Department of Education. As always, we will be reviewing our program so you have an opportunity to see how those funds are used and provide input on our family engagement policy and our School-Family Compacts, but this year we are also looking for your input on how we can best use new funds we will be receiving specifically to address the impact of COVID-19 on our school community. We will have offering two meetings on Zoom covering the same content:

- Wednesday, May 5 at 12:00pm
- Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00pm

More to come, including Zoom info. We hope to (virtually) see you there!

Many thanks,
Kristi

Essential:

Pandemic P-EBT

Pandemic P-EBT benefits are being offered to families again this year beginning in May 2021. To ensure you receive the benefits, please take the following steps by **12:00 PM Today.**

- If you have recently moved and have not submitted a Change of Address form to the Front Office, please do so immediately.

- A Change of Address form must be accompanied by two proof of residency documents showing the new address.
- Submit the Change of Address form and documentation to a.oliphant@wissahickoncharter.org.

A Change of Address form is [attached](#) to this communication. Please note if we don't receive the updated address with supporting documentation, there is a great possibility that you will not qualify. WCS must have the file uploaded to the State with all of the correct information. Please review the provided link for more information. <https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/pebt/>

Sincerely,

Fernhill Front Office

High School Matters for 7th Grade & Spring PSSAs for 7th & 8th Grades: COMBINED INTO ONE REQUIRED ZOOM FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS

Families, mark your calendars to attend ONE of these evenings:

Session #1: Tuesday, May 4

5:30-6:15pm High School Matters (required for 7th; optional for 6th)

6:15-6:45pm PSSA Safety & Spring Schedule (required for 7th & 8th taking PSSAs this spring at school; 8th grade families can join at 6:15pm)

OR

Session #2: Thursday, May 6

5:30-6:15pm High School Matters (required for 7th; optional for 6th)

6:15-6:45pm PSSA Safety & Spring Schedule (required for 7th & 8th taking PSSAs this spring at school; 8th grade families can join at 6:15pm)

See High School Matters flyer [HERE](#) for more details and contact Ms. Aitiya or Ms. Rebecca with any questions.

PSSAs for Students Currently in Grades 3-6

As far as we know, we will be required to administer PSSAs for current 3rd-6th graders (next year's 4th-7th graders), assessing content from their current grades, by September 30, 2021. Our overall approach for these grades is as follows:

This Spring: Teachers of grades 3-6 will "sprinkle" multiple choice strategies and extended response questions throughout the units they're already teaching. There will be no discrete "test prep" units.

This Fall: In 4th-7th grades, we will likely start the year with a +/-2 week test prep unit, focused mainly on strategies (not academic content), so that students feel prepared and do NOT stress when they have to take PSSAs. We'll all work together to make the content as interesting and fun as possible.

As always, all families will receive information for how to "opt out" your children before the tests are administered in the fall.

All School Celebration

Come one, come all! Join us for the all school school celebration next **Friday, April 23rd at 1:30pm**, The Little Mermaid Live! Presented by The New York Black Art Festival. Disney's The Little Mermaid follows Ariel, a little mermaid who's tired of flipping her fins in her aquatic kingdom. She dreams of living in the fascinating world on dry land and will go to great lengths to get there — like trading in her tail for human legs. Based on the beloved Hans Christian Andersen tale and the Disney classic animated film, this fishy fable takes you on an enchanting trip under the sea with everyone's favorite mermaid princess and her crabby sidekick, Sebastian, as they battle evil sea witch Ursula and win the heart of human prince Eric. See [Flyer](#) here!

Zoom link can be found below and we hope to see you there!!

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96307454230>

Meeting ID: 963 0745 4230

Passcode: fox

Families with Food Insecurity

Families, if you are experiencing any food insecurity, please let Ms. Aitiya and Ms. Rebecca know. We have some funds and an organization who could provide support

RAC and In-person K Families

Welcome back to all of our families who are in the Remote Access Center (RAC) program. We have just finished our first week of the program and want to thank you for all the steps you are taking to keep our whole community safe.

Very important note about RUVNA screenings

If one of your children fails a RUVNA screening, please keep all students in household at home.

Rapid testing

- Turn in your Rapid Test Consent form as soon as possible. You can send it in with your child. Thank you!
- Our nurse will continue to call families to make you aware if we need to administer a test to your child and to share the reason why that is the case. This is a call to make sure you are informed, not to ask for your consent since consent has already happened through the form that has gone home and a Google doc. If we are not able to reach you, we will leave a message and proceed with the Rapid Test. This week, we've found that it has been hard to get in touch with a few families. When there is a potential risk, we need to have information as quickly as possible.
- If you have decided to decline Rapid Testing for your child, please be ready to pick up your student, if we have determined that a Rapid Test is needed. You will need to provide a negative Covid test, or quarantine for 14 days starting the day of pickup from school.

Parent/Guardian Availability During the Day

- As I mentioned above, we had a few instances this week of families who are not available when we called. Safety and health protocols require that we be able to get in touch with you during the school day. Moving forward, if we find that a child needs to go home during the day, we will call all of the numbers a family has provided. If we are not able to reach anyone, then the family will have one hour to get back in touch with us. From the time they call us back, they will have another one hour to pick up the student (unless the end of the school day comes first). If the family does not respond and pick up the child as we've requested, we will not be able to keep your child in the in-person program moving forward. We must have a way to send anyone who is sick home. I would ask that every family make a backup plan for how they would handle the scenario of their child needing to go home mid-day.

I know we all hold safety and health as the top priority right now. Thank you for your attention to these requests and practices.

Stay well,
Kristi Littell, CEO

On Radar:

From the Wissahickon Parent Partnership

Interested in a family friendly cooking class?

Join Vetri in a FREE virtual cooking class on **Tuesday, April 20th at 6pm**. Flyer attached, [register here!](#)

Summer Programming at Performing Arts Studio

Please see the attached flyers for additional information.

[Summer Intensive](#) and [X-ploring the Arts](#) Theater Camp.

Native Americans are Beautiful Initiative

This week's Fact: Native Americans have been living on the American continent since about 12,000 B.C.

They were not a single nation but a rich variety of cultures, peoples, and languages. Some historians believe people have been living in South America for more than 30,000 years.

Reminders:

Front Office Open By Appointment Only

The Front Office has reopened **Monday -Thursday**. You will need to call the front office at **267-338-1020** to make an appointment. The office staff is still available by email. **Please note that at this time there are no restrooms available for the public.** Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

FH- t.sumner@wissahickoncharter.org

Meals Distribution Mondays

Meals will continue to be distributed on **Mondays only from 8am-6pm**. Families will receive a meal kit for the week that includes hot entrees that can be reheated. Please continue to follow the Meal Pick up procedures as outlined outside the school.

Absences Due to Tech Issues

Families, if you are experiencing tech issues (i.e. trouble logging in, lost internet connection, etc.) please be sure to communicate that tech issue *in the moment* to helpis@wissahickoncharter.org to receive assistance and/or to have your child's attendance excused if needed. Copies of the emails sent to helpis@wissahickoncharter.org will serve as proof of your child's attempted attendance on that day.

Follow Wissahickon Charter on Social Media

Follow WCS on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for important school updates and to see student learning and fun in action! And don't be shy- we love it when you like, comment, and share our posts!

Important Dates

Friday 4/23 1:30-2:15 All School Celebration



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