

WISSAHICKON SILVER LININGS

WISS NATION'S ROUNDUP OF THE UPLIFTING & UPWORTHY



October 2020

A Great Kick-Off to the School Year All in This Together



What a busy and amazing first month of school! Wiss Nation deserves a round of applause! We are so proud of our students, staff and community for working together to get this unique and challenging school year off to a great start.

As we begin October, Wissahickon is one of the only school districts in the region to successfully provide in-person school for the approximate 60% of elementary families who chose this learning option. Students and staff have demonstrated their incredible resilience and positivity by adjusting to the new norms of wearing a face covering throughout the school day, maintaining social distance and following other safety practices. Teachers are using their skills and creativity to provide instruction in new ways to comply with safety guidelines and students are eagerly participating, no matter how different their school day may be.

At the same time, our students and staff in our virtual programs have been doing an amazing job of adapting to teaching and learning in a full-time digital classroom. Staff are mastering the use of our technology tools (SeeSaw, Teams, Schoology, etc.) to develop and deliver whole class live instruction, small group instruction, classroom discussion, opportunities for student collaboration and independent work. Students are also embracing the technology to access and complete their assignments and virtually connect with their classmates and teacher for an interactive learning experience.

Don't Be Shy Wiss!

In this first issue of *Silver Linings* for 2020-21, we are thrilled to celebrate the uplifting and upworthy happenings across the district. Don't be shy about telling us about your stories and achievements. Send your news and pictures to Kristen Rawlings at communications@wsdweb.org so we can highlight them in future issues of our community newsletter.

Paying it Forward While Building Skills & Character

Mr. Kanopka's WMS Functional Skills class has been repairing bikes during their pre-vocational period and are gaining many real world skills. Students assess the bikes, complete a work order and repurpose the bikes for donation. They are experts at adjusting tire pressure, changing flat tires and tightening brakes and handlebars. Once complete, the bicycles are donated to children in the community, working in conjunction with Mr. Lenny and the Boys and Girls Club. So far, four bicycles have been donated.

**Have a bike to donate?
Contact Mr. Kanopka at WMS.**



Stay Connected & Smile

If you're looking for something to make you smile, we encourage you to follow us on our social media. The district posts important news updates and uplifting and upworthy highlights, photos and videos featuring our students, parents, staff and community.

Facebook - [@wissahickonschooldistrict](#)

Twitter - [@WissahickonSD](#)

Instagram - [@WissahickonSchoolDistrict](#)

YouTube - [Wissahickon School District](#)

PLEASE NOTE: there are Facebook Groups administered by school community members. The school district does not post or engage in discussion on those group pages and the content does not reflect the viewpoint of the district.

Role Modeling!

Even our mascot is role modeling how to keep our school community safe. Thanks to the daughter-in-law of WHS teacher, Dr. Brasch, for making a mask that fits the Trojan's rather large head. :)



Thumbs up to the BBE HSA which purchased awesome mask lanyards for the students and thanks to the school community, which purchased nearly 3,000 customized WSD masks through an online store. If you're interested in purchasing a WSD mask and other spirit wear, we will be opening our fall/winter online store in mid-October.



Building School Community

During the first month of school, our students got to know their teacher(s), met new friends and learned about each other. Our school communities ensured that some of our favorite events continued, such as Stony Creek, which swapped their Back to School Picnic for a car parade.



Getting to Know our Teachers

Elementary families met our teachers through live, interactive webinars while WMS/WHS families watched video presentations recorded by every teacher in their classrooms or home office.

WSD welcomed nearly 50 new staff this school year.

[WATCH NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS](#)



A Wiss Nation Send-Off

LGE held a car parade to bid farewell to their beloved principal, Dr. Walsh, who is leaving for another position in October. Students gave Dr. Walsh cards, signs, balloons and gifts - a fitting send-off for a great Wiss staff member. You will be missed, Dr. Walsh! On Thursday, October 8th, LGE can get to know Mr. Feeley, our terrific interim principal, by watching him read a Bedtime Story with Wissahickon.



#WissCares about Each Other

To support one of our own, Wiss Nation donned their beach gear to run, walk, ride, roll, swim, surf or waddle on September 27th during the virtual 5K and 1 mile walk – **RIDE THE TIDE FOR KELLAN**. The event to raise awareness and funding to fight childhood cancer was named for Kellan, the 4-year old son of Mike Ford, WHS science teacher and coach, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Thanks to everyone for showing how much #WissCares. If you would like to support the family, check out the Kellan Strong apparel: <https://kellanstrong.itemorder.com/sale>



SPREADING LIGHT: \$370.00 was donated to the Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard in Ambler thanks to #WissNation candles — an initiative started by Maria Cherago, SGE/LGE Music Teacher. Candle purchases made in October will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Ambler. To purchase a candle, go to <https://tinyurl.com/wissnationform>

It's Time to Get Involved! Join an Extracurricular Club

There's a ton of neat extracurricular activities for WMS and WHS students to get involved in - even in our virtual setting. Case in point: the WHS Art Club / NAHS (National Art Honors Society) is currently recruiting students interested in art and is planning to launch an online shop as well as various events. Here's their pitch: "Are you interested in art? Passionate about creating beautiful pieces of artwork? Are you one of the many people who picked up a paintbrush on a whim during quarantine? Or are you an avid Tik-Toker who has managed to wander into Art-Tok? Either way! Come and join the Wissahickon Art Club! Check Schoology or Instagram @wissartclub.

[VIEW WHS CLUBS](#)

[VIEW WMS CLUBS](#)

There's something for everyone! Club advisors are posting information about joining clubs in Schoology. Keep an eye out!

Spotlight on Student Businesses Started Over Quarantine



Entrepreneurialism is alive in Wissahickon! In the first issue of the WHS student newspaper, *The Trojan Times*, Katie Fath '23 interviewed two students who used their newfound free time during quarantine to start a small business. We invite you to read more about Lily Solomon '21 and Sara Sugerman '21 who began a tie-dye business and Madison Gindea '23 who launched a cake baking and decorating business.

[READ SPOTLIGHT STORY](#)

SPEAKING OF THE TROJAN TIMES... Shout out to the editorial staff whose mission for the paper this year is "to be a vehicle for ideas and topics that are perhaps ignored at times and to be a conduit for civil discourse." Specifically, the editorial staff intends to explore "today's most pressing issues - the systemic racism in our society, the mental health crisis in our generation, the global catastrophe of the environment, and the divisive politics that permeates our community." Wiss Nation is proud of students for tackling difficult issues and working to be positive changemakers.



Masks up! Game on! Students & coaches are making the fall sports season work! Congrats to the Girls Field Hockey team who started the season 6-0. Big shout out to the Girls Tennis team who are the undefeated (5-0) Suburban One League champions, Liberty Division. Follow the Trojans on Twitter [@WissAthletics](#).