



Middle School Message

Monthly Newsletter of
Wissahickon Middle School

October 2019

Career Day Returns to WMS Volunteers Needed

The Wissahickon Middle School Career Day is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 7:15 am to 11:00 am**. Career Day provides all WMS students the opportunity to see many different professions.

We will need many volunteers who are willing to discuss their professions. We would like to provide a wide variety of professions to offer to our students. Our goal is to provide Career Pathways among all clusters based on the Pennsylvania Career Zone. Please visit the following link for more information- <https://www.pacareerzone.org/clusters>. We are specifically searching for individuals in the following professions/clusters:

1. **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resource**- some professions under this category include refuse and recyclable materials collectors, farm managers and workers, agricultural equipment operators, environmental engineers, biological technicians to name a few from this cluster.
2. **Architecture & Construction** some professions under this category include construction managers, civil engineers, brick masons, insulation workers, iron workers, electrical power-line installers and repairers, carpenters, electricians, and landscaping to name a few from this cluster.
3. **Finance & Insurance**: some professions under this category include treasurers and controllers, actuaries, personal financial advisors, accountants, financial analysts, insurance sales agents to name a few from this cluster.
4. **Government & Public Administration**: some professions under this category include financial examiners, postmasters, environmental compliance officers, occupation health and safety specialists, construction and building inspectors, tax examiners and collectors to name a few from this cluster.
5. **Hospitality**: some professions under this category include food service managers, chefs, travel agents, janitorial workers, hotel desk clerks, waiters/waitresses, to name a few from this cluster.
6. **Human Services**: some professions under this category include funeral service managers, neuropsychologists and clinical neuropsychologists, psychologists, personal care aides, healthcare social workers, childcare workers, and hairdressers, to name a few from this cluster.
7. **Manufacturing**: some professions under this category maintenance and repair workers, team assemblers, first line supervisors of production, inspectors, machinists, etc. to names a few

If you have a profession in one of these categories or know any individuals in one of these categories that may be interested in volunteering on Career Day, please have them contact Gus Baldassano with his/her name, profession, job title, employer, and contact information. Gus Baldassano may be reached at Gboldassano@wsdweb.org or at 215-619-8110 ext. 7034.



Computer Help

The beginning of each school year brings about lots of change. This is especially true

for our 6th grade students as they transition from elementary to middle school life. During the first week of school, all 6th grade students received their Dell laptop computer, along with a protective case. Teachers at WMS use the laptops daily to deliver instruction in new and meaningful ways.

In addition to the computer, all students and parents have access to Schoology - an online learning platform for teachers to communicate with their students, digitally assign work, assess students' learning and provide feedback. Earlier in the school year, WSD provided parents with login and sign-up directions for Schoology. Parents are able to communicate with teachers, monitor grades and stay up to date with happenings in the classroom. Here are the Top 5 Tips to help make this transition as easy as possible.

Top Five Tips:

1. Make sure students charge their laptop computer each night.
2. Encourage students to restart their laptop when they arrive at school the next morning.
3. Have a conversation with your child about using the computer responsibly at school and at home.
4. Set up your Schoology account to check for class updates and stay up-to-date with your child's grades.
5. Make sure your student does not have anything in the front pouch of his/her computer bag other than the charger, as this will help protect the screen from breaking.

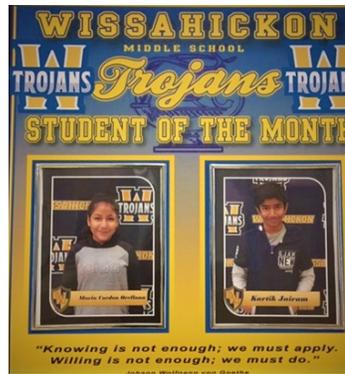
From the Nurse's Office

According to recent federal data from the CDC, more than one-quarter of the nation's high school students had reported vaping in the previous 30 days. This number is up from 11.7% in 2017. Vaping is occurring here in our Wissahickon School District community.

The Philadelphia Inquirer had an article on September 23, 2019, "Discreet vaping devices fooling parents, schools". The author highlights the evolving technology in camouflaging vaping devices. In addition to the devices that look like a USB port or computer mouse, there is now a vaping hoodie that "allows users to take a puff through the drawstring." Another example is a watch that "when removed from its wristband can be used for vaping. It's among the new products making vaping more convenient and easier to conceal."

Middle school age is not too early to have conversations with your child about the harmful effects of vaping. The CDC has a helpful information, ["Talk with your Teen About E-cigarettes: A Tip Sheet for Parents."](#) The American Academy of Pediatrics also has a useful fact sheet, ["E-Cigarettes and Vaping: What Parents Need to Know."](#)

Students & Athletes of the Month



This month, our two Students of the Month are Kartik Jairam – Grade 7 Garnet and Maria Cordon Orellana - Grade - Grade 6 Mustangs. Kartik and Maria were selected based on their positive contributions to WMS, strong interest in learning, involvement in school/community programs and great character and citizenship.



Our two Student Athletes of the Month are Anna Forde-Girls Tennis Jarret Federer-Football. Anna and Jarret were selected based on their displays of good sportsmanship, respect, "team before self" mentality, commitment and demonstration of outstanding character, in addition to their athletic skill levels.

Please join us in recognizing these students' positive contributions to the WMS learning community. Their photos are on display in the Atrium hallway.

Watch Principal Beth Bauer's Video Blog!

Mrs. Bauer shares information about the upcoming Veterans Day Breakfast and Hurricane Dorian fundraiser.

[VIEW BLOG](#)



Staff Spotlight LeNell (Mr. Lenny) Robinson, Custodian

Birthdate? April 27th

Years at WMS? This is my 6th year at WMS! I have been in the District for almost 17 years.

Family: Family is where the foundation of "you" starts! My granddaughter Jasmine is the love of my life!

Favorite food? Pizza

Favorite movie? *Life*, with Eddie Murphy and Bernie Mac

Favorite season? I like fall because the temperature is perfect and I like to watch the changing

of the season through the leaves.

Favorite color? Blue

Favorite holiday? I love Christmas because it's all about family. It's a season of giving. You see more kindness around you during this time of year.

First job? I worked with my grandfather with his construction company. I learned how to do drywall. My grandfather taught me to be a hard worker.

Have you ever traveled outside of the U.S.? Not yet!

Favorite book? *The Punch* by John Feinstein

Hobbies? Basketball, football and taking pictures