

June 12, 2020

Town Center Elementary School Weekly Update

The last day of school is June 19. Due to graduation events taking place next week, the June 19 newsletter will be moved to June 22 to include graduation event links. The June 22 newsletter will be the last newsletter of the 2019-20 school year.

A Message From the Town Center Administration

Dear Town Center Parents & Guardians,

We hope you and your child enjoyed participating in today's Virtual Field Day! Special thanks to our elementary P.E. teachers for helping to organize this fun event which promoted physical activity. If you haven't already done so, please remember to complete the [official score card](#), share photos and videos, and participate on social media using FlipGrid or Twitter. See the [Field Day letter](#) for more information.

It's hard to believe that the 2019-20 school year is coming to an end. As we reflect on the beginning of this school year, we could have never imagined back in September how we would be ending the year. While the last three months have certainly had challenges, we have learned a great deal about ourselves and each other. We hope that on this journey, our students have a greater understanding about the traits we have been focusing on such as kindness, respect, perseverance, empathy and resilience.

As one of our strategic goals, social-emotional learning continues to be an important focus of our district. Perhaps now more than ever, it's critical that we continue to explore opportunities and have conversations with our students around these traits, so they develop a deeper understanding and recognition of differences and similarities as well as perspective. We want our students to become empathetic adults who understand that while people may have different perspectives and experiences, there are certain fundamental rights we should all have as humans.

While we have been intentional in providing professional learning experiences to our staff around equity, there continues to be more work we need to do in order to grow

our own understanding. As educators, it is our responsibility to promote acceptance, inclusivity and equitable practices. In the months ahead, we will look closely at our practices, curricula, and resources using an equity lens. We will work as a district and as a school community to provide additional opportunities to our staff, equipping them with tools and strategies to continue this important work. There are many wonderful, age appropriate resources available to teach and support our students. In addition to the [resources](#) that were shared in Dr. Aderhold's message to the WW-P community on Confronting Racism, we have included a few additional resources below which we hope will help you when having these conversations with your child.

- [How to explain racism to kids - CNN town hall with Sesame Street](#)
- [Website with a wonderful selection of books to address racism in an age appropriate, "kid-friendly" way](#)
- [Great resources from Epic for parents and teachers](#)

As a reminder, please be sure to review the important information in the link at the end of this letter regarding procedures for the drop-off and pick-up of materials, which takes place next week. Remember to place the returned items in a bag marked with your child's name, grade level and teacher's name and bring it on the scheduled drop off/pick up days.

If you are moving or planning to move either out of the district or within the district it is **very important** that you notify your child's teacher. This is important for the placement process and to ensure you receive any information that may be mailed out.

We continue to be here to support you and want to assist you as needed. We have resources available to families in need.

- Families who qualify for free or reduced meals are being supported by bi-monthly food distribution. If your circumstances have changed and you need assistance in this area, please contact the guidance counselor, nurse or building administrator.
- Technology resources remain available during the summer months. Elementary students who currently have iPads and Chromebooks will keep these devices over the summer. The primary purpose of an iPad or Chromebook device is for exploration, for learning, and access to educational resources. If there is a problem with the device, you are in need of internet access, or if your family is

moving from the district, please complete this [form](#). Once you complete this form, you may report to High School North on Tuesday or Thursday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to get tech support or sign out a device. Please note: The form must be completed prior to going to High School North. You will not receive a notification to report to the high school; please go to High School North on the next Tuesday or Thursday following submission of the form.

- In addition to the curriculum that is being provided virtually, we also support any student who is struggling with the circumstances and loss of being at school with peers and teachers. If your child is experiencing difficulty, please reach out to his/her teacher, guidance counselor, CST, or building administrator for support.

Warmest regards,
Janet Bowes and Renee Osterbye

Important Town Center Link:
[Retrieval and Drop-off Information](#)

School Updates

A Special Note to 2nd Grade Families from Millstone River School:

Dear 2nd grade families,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your children as the newest Millstone River Eagles. For an introduction to what life at Millstone River School is like for students, please click the links provided below. You'll get to hear from teachers about all the exciting learning that lies ahead and even have some of your questions answered by actual MRS students themselves!

We can't wait to meet you!

Mr. Dalton, Dr. Falk, and Mrs. Shanklin
Millstone River School Principal and Assistant Principals
[Millstone River School 3rd and 4th Grade Orientation](#)

PTA Updates:

We have all missed numerous events in our lives over the last few months...but I am confident one of the most crushing losses we all felt was losing our 2020 Spring Book

Fair. Well, we have good news, we are taking our Book Fair to the next level and introducing our VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR! By clicking on this link (<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/tcgator>) and clicking on the "shop now" button, you can buy books AND support the TCPTA without having to leave your couch. Happy shopping!

Please be advised we have received the following nominations for the TCPTA Executive Board for the 2020-21 school year:

- President: Josh Youngman
- VP Membership: Saima Shabab
- VP Programs: Faiza Raja
- Co-VP's Fundraising: Heather Hutchinson and Stephanie Eng
- Treasurer: Shivali Chandhok
- Recording Secretary: Sree Sanku

Reminders:

- **Assistance:** If your child needs assistance, please email us at tce@ww-p.org.
- **Absences:** If your child is ill, please note it in Genesis as usual. Please take care of yourselves and your family.
- **Grades K through 5 e-Learning Plans:** Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers will share links to the e-learning plans with their classes via email.
- **Athletics:** Check out the latest edition of the [WW-P Athletics newsletter](#) featuring highlights of some of our amazing senior spring athletes, fall registration and more.

District Updates

- [District Website](#) | [COVID-19 Information](#) | [Virtual/Remote Learning Website](#)

Community Education

- Registration is now open for WW-P's Community Education Virtual Summer Programs. Spaces are limited, register soon! Please click [here](#) to view the Virtual Summer Program Guide and click [here](#) to register.

Counseling and Wellness

- **School Counselor Corner:** District K-5 school counselors have created a [grid](#) of activities to keep our students talking and thinking mindfully while the district is implementing virtual/remote learning.
- **Health Resources:** WW-P district nurses have pulled together [important health information](#) for families. Please check it out.
- **Counseling and Wellness:** The WW-P District Wellness Committee has created a [website](#) to promote the understanding that wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. Students, families, and staff are encouraged to embed these self care resources into their daily routine.

District Facilities

- **Playground Equipment and Athletic Fields:** All school playground equipment/athletic fields/courts/tracks/etc remain closed until further notice.

Food Services

- If your child(ren) receives food benefits, please check your email for instructions.
- If your financial situation has recently changed and you would like information on food benefits, please click [here](#) for details and to download the application.

Registration

- At this time, all student registration for incoming kindergarten students for the 2020-21 school year, as well as students moving into the WW-P Regional School District will be done by appointment and virtually until the district reopens. Please [click here](#) for more information and to begin the process.

State Information

- **State of New Jersey:** www.covid19.nj.gov has been created as the official **COVID-19** information hub for the State of New Jersey. The website includes up-to-date information, services, where to find assistance, job opportunities, and more.

- **A Program of Center for Food Action - Hunger Free New Jersey:** This non-profit organization is working with its partners to inform citizens of rapidly developing changes to address hunger during this crisis. For information and resources on programs such as NJ school meals, SNAP, WIC, and more, please visit the [organization's website](#).

Communications

- WW-P uses SchoolMessenger as our [district communication tool](#). SchoolMessenger integrates with Genesis. It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis so that you may receive emails/texts/calls from WW-P.
- Click [here](#) to read the Spring 2020 issue of the WW-P District News. Included in this issue: celebrating the class of 2020, saluting our eighth grade student, end of year pickup/drop off information for schools, fall sports information and much more.

Virtual Community Events

- Community groups and organizations are beginning to organize virtual events. Click [here](#) for some upcoming virtual activities.

Board of Education Meeting

- Check out the upcoming [Board of Education Meeting](#) dates. Agenda and materials for Board meetings are published after 3:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting.

Make sure to follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Youtube](#)