

January 12, 2024

Wildcat Families,

Thank you to those who were able to attend our PTO meeting on Monday. We're so thankful to have such an active community supporting our students and teachers! We have a lot of help, but more help is always appreciated, especially with all the spring activities planned! Our next PTO meeting will be March 11th. The meeting will be virtual in hopes of accommodating all those busy after school schedules!

This morning around 9:45am, in accordance with State requirements, we will conduct a routine lockdown. The teachers have reviewed with students the importance of implementing safety drills throughout the year in order to be prepared for unexpected situations that may arise. Our teachers do an incredible job helping our students feel safe here at Wilson.

Next week we encourage everyone to participate in a district-wide spirit day and wear their favorite hat to school on Tuesday, January 16th.

Last, we have some bittersweet news to share with you regarding our fantastic health aide, Tina Spurlock. Today will be Tina's last day at Wilson. Tina was offered and subsequently accepted a new job with the Springer School and Center doing similar work. Tina has worked in Forest Hills for 19 years as a Health Aide and Paraprofessional. We are really excited for her to take this new opportunity, but we sure will miss her. Tina has taken such wonderful care of our Wildcats over the years! Her positivity and kind heart are just two of the many

qualities we love about her! We wish her all the best! More information related to the transition plan is below.

Have a great weekend!

Take care,
Erin and Brian

Building Information

Health Room Transition

Until the Health Room position is filled permanently, Rachel Moller will be working in the Wilson Health Office. Rachel joins us with a diverse background in Nursing and a passion for enabling kids to thrive in school. Rachel is a Registered Nurse in Ohio and has a Master's in Nursing. She previously worked in an elementary school in Minnesota and has been substituting as a health aide in the Forest Hills School District this year. Rachel's children have previously attended Wilson and she currently has one child at Nagel and two children at Mercer. She is excited to be part of the Wilson team next week!

This week we have been interviewing some great candidates to fill the position permanently. Once the process is complete, we'll be sure to introduce you to the new person.

Friendly Tech Reminder for Smart Watches

Smart watches seemed to be a popular gift this holiday season. While we understand the value these tools provide families in being able to monitor a student's location or communicate before or after school, it is crucial that we maintain a productive instructional environment in our classrooms. Unfortunately, smart watches have become a bit of a distraction across our elementary buildings for some students.

Please remember that during the school day, students are not permitted to use their watch for calling, messaging, texting, web browsing or taking photos. It's also important to understand that in the event of an emergency or safety-related situation, we want students to listen to instructions from their teacher, principal and staff members who are working to keep everyone safe.

Students are welcome to wear a smartwatch during the day, but it must have the Wi-Fi and cellular turned off. Students should not be texting parents, family members, or friends during the school day. Parents and family members should call the office directly if there is a message that needs to be relayed to their student during class time. It is recommended that parents/guardians make sure the watch is set to silent or school mode so it does not disrupt classroom instruction.

If a student uses a smart watch for anything besides checking the time and/or the teacher feels it is a distraction, the teacher will talk with your child about using their smart watch appropriately. If problems continue, the teacher will ask that your child store their smart watch in their backpack during the school day. We appreciate your understanding.

The district has a policy in place regarding cell phones and personal communication devices, which you can review here: [Board Policy 5136](#).

Car Line Safety

These last few days we have noticed a few things that need to be addressed with the car riders. First, in the morning we have noticed a few people release their child at 9:00am (sometimes earlier) and then leave the car line. This is extremely dangerous as kids are also exiting their vehicles at the same time. Please do not leave until directed to do so by a staff member. Second, in the afternoon we noticed people leaving the loading zone and cutting through the parking lot instead of maintaining the flow of traffic to the last aisle. Please make sure to always exit through the last aisle. Finally, our School Resource Officers have noticed some kids are not buckled in when leaving campus. Even if you have to pull into a parking spot after leaving the loading zone, please take the time to buckle up! If you have any questions about the procedures, please ask one of the staff members on duty.

Counselor's Corner:

Our 2nd-6th Graders will begin future planning!

During Innovation Lab this winter our 2nd-6th grade students will be learning about planning for their future through Xello Lessons. [Read here for more details about Xello.](#)

Many thanks to Mr. Downey for sharing mindful skills with Wilson!

For 10 weeks, Mr. Johnny Downey spent time with our staff and students on Fridays, sharing skills to help with self-regulation, breathing, and being calm and relaxed. During this time:

- ❖ 15 different staff members participated in before-school mindfulness.
- ❖ 5 students participated in small group time with Mr. Downey
- ❖ All 4th graders participated in mindful skills including breath work and calming skills.
- ❖ After participation in the lessons with Mr. Downey, 4th graders reported a 10.2% increase in response to "I know how to control my breathing in a calm way." They also reported a 14.7% increase in response to "I know what it means to "regulate" myself." And 84.7% of 4th graders responded positively to, "I think the time with Mr. Downey has been useful to help me know how to be calm."

4th - 6th Grade SPARKS Day!!!! March 22, 2024

Do you or someone you know have a SPARK you would like to share with our Wilson Wildcats? A SPARK can be "an interest, skill, hobby and/or career to ignite dreams of future plans for kids." Our annual SPARKS Day is Friday, March 22, 2024 for our 4th-6th grade students. Presenters will share their "Spark" to three different groups, each session is 35 minutes. Information to be shared with each group includes the presenter's interests/hobbies while growing up and what the "path" looked like. The remainder of the time is then spent sharing your "Spark". Hands-on activities are welcome! There will be a light breakfast available at 9:00 am. This is such a fun day for our kids as well as our presenters. [Link for more information and to express interest.](#)

Wilson PTO Good Neighbor Committee

Please reach out to me if you know a family who may need a boost with meals, groceries and gift cards through our Good Neighbor Committee. If you are in being contacted when there is a need, please register here: [Wilson Good Neighbor Committee](#)

As always, please reach out if there is anything I can do for your child or your family.

Smiles,

Jean Bode jeanbode@foresthills.edu

Lockdown Drill Today

As part of our regular A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training, today we will conduct a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, students remain in their classrooms, regular classroom activity stops, and all classroom doors are secured. During the drill no one will be permitted to enter the building. The drill will begin at 9:45am and take approximately 15 minutes.

Anderson Fastpitch Softball Association

Calling all softball players! Registration for the Spring 2024 season is now open! Click [here](#) to register! See [FLYER](#) for more information. T-Ball is available for 6U! Questions? Email andersonfastpitchsoftball@gmail.com.

Anderson Middies Girls Lacrosse

Register now for Middies Girls Lacrosse!

The Middies program is a volunteer-led program that aims to teach lacrosse fundamentals, developing players through game skills and promoting good sportsmanship and teamwork. The goal is to foster a love of the game and prepare those girls who may be interested in playing lacrosse at the high school level and beyond.

Register here: <https://www.andersonlax.com/> (Note: players must also join US Lacrosse; info on website)

Who: Girls grades 3-8

Season: January-May 2024

Questions? Email [Margaret Graupe](mailto:margaret.graupe@andersonlax.com)

Outdoor Recess Guidelines

We believe it is extremely important for kids to have an opportunity to get outside for recess as often as possible throughout the winter. As the weather gets colder, we will use the following guidelines to determine how much time we'll spend outside, if at all. Please make sure your Wildcats are dressed accordingly (remember to label coats, hats, and gloves).

- **Outside Recess** → If the temperature is above 20 degrees and the wind chill is above 15 degrees.

- **A Brief Recess** → When the wind chill is between 5 – 15 degrees, children have a choice to go outside for no more than 10 minutes at the teacher's discretion.
 - **Inside Recess** → When snow covers the blacktop, and/or when the temperature is less than 20 degrees, and the wind chill is less than 5 degrees, children will have indoor recess.
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iLab Book Helper Volunteers

Your help is greatly appreciated since we check-in, check-out and reshelve books along with doing STEM activities in the Innovation Lab. Please sign up for your preferred day and time:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49A5AB2EAB9-46412089-innovation>

If you have not volunteered in the learning commons in previous years or completed training, please contact Sara to set up a brief training at the beginning of your volunteer session. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions to Sara at 513-313-3928 or saraostermeier@hotmail.com

Lunch Helpers

We always appreciate our families volunteering whenever your work schedule allows. The opportunity to help Kindergarten and First Graders in the cafeteria is always appreciated! [Volunteer Link](#)

Below is the link to volunteer during the months of January and February.

If you can help in January, [sign up here](#).

If you can help in February, [please sign up here](#).

Restaurant Nights

Take a night off cooking or grab a quick meal as a family between busy school nights at one of our upcoming Restaurant Fundraisers. You will support a local restaurant AND Wilson because a percentage of your purchase is donated to the PTO! Don't forget to mention WILSON!

Sunday, January 21: NVT Pizza & Brew 11am-8pm

Monday, February 6: Kitchen 1883 [all day!]

Enrichment Programs

A new session of Spanish class with World of Spanish LLC beginning January 24th. Click [HERE](#).

LevelUp Academy coding club starting Monday, January 22 after school from 3:45-4:45. Click [HERE](#).

Enriching Kidz Stitch and Sew [3rd-6th] class held on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 from 3:45-5:45. Click [HERE](#).

Pottery/Painting with Star Glazers after school for four weeks starting Feb. 6. Click [HERE](#)

District Information

REGISTER NOW for FHSD Parent Academy on Jan. 24

The next Parent Academy session will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Nagel Middle School! Thanks to generous support from the [Forest Hills Foundation for Education](#), we are able to offer light food and childcare for families interested in attending. You can find a [list of sessions/topics and a link to register for the event here](#). Some highlights include:

- **Dr. Devorah Heitner - Growing Up In Public:** Dr. Heitner will offer practical, timely, non-judgmental advice about technology and parenting in the digital age.
- **Kerry Brown - Parenting Through Transitions and Big Emotions:** This session from the Beech Acres Parent Center will provide helpful tips and tools to find joy in parenting and lighten the load of every day challenges both big and small. Join us to learn effective strategies to ease these life changes.
- College Credit Plus Information Session
- Mental Wellness Resources for People of All Ages (Anderson Mental Health Collaborative)
- Understanding College Affordability
- Village Connections: [Ask the Experts from Hamilton County Department of Developmental Disabilities](#)

Sixth Grade Families: Nagel Dance Club Interest Survey

This survey is to gauge interest and feasibility to start a dance team at Nagel Middle School for the WINTER season of the 24/25 school year. There is no guarantee this will be implemented. The ability to start the club will depend on a variety of factors including student

interest, resources to support and more. This survey will help inform that decision.

If applicable, please complete and share with other students who are eligible (live in the district and will attend Nagel next year) and might be interested. **Please only complete ONCE per student.**

SURVEY --> <https://forms.gle/ECfK1k4T7bWRVuBX8>

In the News: Superintendent Hook Discusses School Funding

With the start of a new calendar year, WCPO interviewed Superintendent Larry Hook about the current school funding system in Ohio. Mr. Hook acknowledged the major steps forward in recent years and points to areas where state lawmakers should look to make changes moving forward. [Watch the story here!](#)

District-Wide Spirit Day: National Hat Day - Jan. 16

Students and staff are invited to wear their favorite hat on Tuesday, January 16! Join us for our first spirit day of the new year and warm up with a fun hat!

Community Events

You can also visit our [flyers webpage here](#) that has updates on other fun events and activities, including the following items:

- [UC DAAP Saturday Art Program \(Grades K-12\)](#)
- [Anderson Middies Girls Lacrosse Registration](#)
- [Anderson Township Little League Registration](#)

- [Anderson Fastpitch Softball Registration](#)

EMERGENCY AND SUPPORT RESOURCES

- If you, your student, or anyone else you know is in a life-threatening health crisis or emergency, call 911.
- If you, your student, or anyone else you know is in emotional distress or experiencing a suicidal crisis, call or text 988, available 24/7.
- If you have concerns about threats to student safety, we urge you to call or text the Safer Ohio School Tip Line at 844-SaferOH. This line is staffed 24/7.
- If you are seeking additional resources, we encourage you to start at the links below:
 - [MindPeace](#)
 - [FHSD Family Resource List 22-23](#)

Upcoming Events

K-4 Unified Arts Friday Rotation

Friday, January 19th will be a “Monday.”

Friday, January 26th will be a “Thursday.”

Jan. 15

- No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Jan. 16

- Wear Your Favorite Hat

Jan. 17

Jan. 18

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Jan. 19