



WINES TIMES

With the turn of the weather, we begin looking forward to the second half of the school year and all of the events that the kids (and the parents!) enjoy. Lunchtime Extra Specials begin the third week of January. Please note this is a **calendar change** and that Extra Specials Session I now begins January 17th with Session II beginning February 7th. Extra Specials allow children the opportunity to, one day a week, forego recess at lunchtime and instead stay indoors with parent volunteers to participate in a special activity. In the past, Extra Specials have included options such as Lego, Crafts, Yoga, Cursive, Board Games and Knitting. After winter break, teachers will offer the students a chance to choose whether they'd like to do an activity for Extra Specials for either (or both) of the two sessions. Children are not obligated to participate but many of them enjoy spending one recess a week indoors doing something fun. Thank you in advance to all of the parents who will help with Extra Specials!

The early part of 2017 will also include a chance for all families to participate in both International Night, held the evening of Wednesday February 1st, and our NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) Celebration, Monday, February 13th. More information about these events will be included in January's Wines Times.

The Scholastic Book Fair wraps up at the end of this week, so please feel free to stop in to shop with your child either Wednesday or Thursday during lunch. Each classroom will have a designated time to shop during the school day. If you were unable to make Family Night, or if you've decided you'd like to shop again, do not hesitate to stop in over the lunch hour. (Children may *only* shop at lunch with an adult.)

Finally, we would like to offer a sincere thank you to all of the parents who helped us with our November events. Once again, **Ruthie & Bryan Kowalk** organized an incredible Science and Builders Fair. With 67 participants, Wines was buzzing with students showing off their inquisitive nature

with impressive science projects and mind-boggling building feats. Thank you so much to the Kowalks for spending their time making sure this event was such a terrific success. Thank you also to **Sarah Ball** for chairing the Great Ideas Grants committee again this year and to the committee volunteers who thoughtfully spent time evaluating, and then awarding, the grant proposals. We know that everyone finds themselves pulled in so many directions with family, personal, and professional commitments and we are truly grateful to every volunteer who helps make Wines such a special community.



Have a safe and enjoyable winter break!

— Wines PTO Executive Board

+ WINES PTO PARTNERS WITH AMAZONSMILE +



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For your purchases to support our PTO, you **MUST** start your order at the smile.amazon.com. The **Wines Parent Teacher Organization** must be selected as the charity of choice. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0563687>

Thank you and happy shopping!

+ JOIN THE PARTY! +

Volunteers are needed to shadow the chairs of some important Wines events. If you've ever wanted to be an integral part of the fantastic extracurricular events put on by the PTO, this is your chance. Don't worry – we're not throwing you into the deep end right away! Shadowing is a great way to learn more about what goes into an event before becoming the chair or co-chair during the 2017-2018 school year. Plus you get the chance to make a valuable impact on something your children love to participate in! The following list of events is in need of a volunteer willing to learn the ropes for 2017-2018:

- Lunchtime Extra Specials - January/February event
- Science Olympiad - January-May event
- Fourth Grade Disability Day - Spring event
- Country Fair - June event
- Country Fair Games Chair - June Event
- Wines Raffle - June event



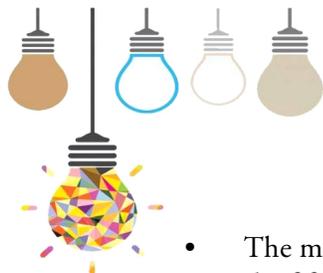
If you're interested in shadowing, contact Jill Coultas at winesptovicepresident@gmail.com.



GREAT IDEAS COME ALIVE



Our first round of applications for Wines' "Great Ideas Grants" closed in early November. The grant committee met with Dr. DeYoung to evaluate the applications and to decide which grants would be awarded. We are pleased to announce the following winners of the fall Great Ideas Grants:



- Third grade teachers received funding to enhance their flexible seating arrangements throughout third grade classrooms. These funds will go toward the purchase of items such as hokki stools, wobble chairs, yoga pillow cushions, lap desks, and wobble cushions/stability discs. Thank you to Mrs. Shanteau for her grant submission.
- The music room received funding to purchase ukuleles for students to use. Each of the fifth grade classes will use the ukuleles in the early part of 2017 with an eventual extension to third and fourth grade students. Thank you to Ms. Glaser for submitting this request (see more about it in the *Notes from the Music Room*).

The spring round of grant submissions will be due on March 1st so start thinking about whether you might want to submit an idea for grant funding. Remember, both students and adults may participate so this is a terrific opportunity to put some of your good ideas to work!



CONSIDER THE WINES RAFFLE AS YOU SHOP



It's never too early to start considering donating to the Wines Raffle. With so many sales on items that are part of the Raffle Wish List, this is a great opportunity to grab something for the event at a great price. Here are the classroom basket themes for June's Raffle:

Kindergarten - Arts & Crafts

1st Grade – Legos (Legos are 20% off at Target this week!)

2nd Grade - The Wonderful World of Science

3rd Grade - Camping, Swimming & Outdoor Fun

4th Grade - Sports & Outdoor Fun (Team regalia is great too!)



The 5th grade traditionally pulls together to purchase an electronic item - the HOTTEST item of the Raffle. Details will be sent out later to 5th grade families.

You may also check our wish list for additional items that we'll be looking for in the spring. Visit: <http://bit.ly/WinesRaffleWishList>

We welcome any early donations and would be happy to take them off your hands if you don't want to hold onto the items until June. Just contact Kerianne Tupac at kmtupac@umich.edu to arrange a hand-off. Thank you for considering the Raffle!

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM



The music room is getting 30 new additions:

Ukuleles!

I am so excited for our students to get a chance to learn about harmony in a tangible way and even write and perform their own complete songs! Thank you very much to the Wines PTO and the greater Wines community for your support of this addition, a class set of soprano ukuleles, that is sure to expand our music repertoire and challenge our young musicians.



I am excited to announce the first of the grade-level performance dates for this year!

4th Grade: Thursday, February 23

Daytime Performance: 2:00 PM

Evening Performance: 7:00 PM

Join us for a night of singing and recorder playing! Have a wonderful holiday season.

— Jessica Glaser, Vocal Music Teacher



NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM



Greetings from the art room,

So many great things are being created in the art room currently. In 3rd grade, students have just finished making wooden Kalimbas, or thumb pianos. 5th graders have looked at the sculptures of Alberto Giacometti to get inspiration for the wire sculptures they've been working on. The people they've created are doing a wide range of things from fishing to hula hooping. The 4th graders are just putting the finishing touches on the plaster sculptures they've been working on and they look great. In kindergarten the students made pinch pots out of clay this week, and will soon be glazing them. In 2nd grade they've just begun to make some plaster finger puppets, and it sounds like they have some great ideas for how they want them to look. The 1st graders have just made some papier-mâché bowls. It gets a bit slimy and is lots of fun!



Many of the projects the students have made will be coming home in the next couple of weeks. Keep an eye out for the bag designed by your child containing their hard work and wonderful creativity.

— Joel Wyse, Art Teacher



GREETINGS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER



Reader: a person who reads

Hello,

As I write this, the Scholastic Book Fair is just days away. For the past week, Wines students have been excited, anticipating one of their favorite school events. We've been checking out extra books to tide us over for the week we meet in the lab. Extra checkout days are animated and enthusiastic. Students take home armfuls of books and make big plans.

Yet, while we share a culture of reading at Wines, some of our students are not quite where we'd love to see them as recreational readers. If your child is resistant to reading at home, I hope that our book fair and our extended checkouts can help you to create enthusiasm for reading at home. I do feel, from talking to students, that those who read the most have either structured time for reading every day or whose families limit screen time. One never knows what book will spark a love of learning, which is why I encourage students to read a wide variety of materials. Readers read. We have a two-week vacation coming up and I would hope that all of our students read every day!

Our classes are moving along with their projects. I will be sending home packets to Kindergarten families soon. You will see how much your child has grown since the beginning of the year! First and second graders are creating projects for their Johnny Appleseed books. This unit incorporates literature, history, geography, science, word processing, and graphic design. We are making a project based on Johnny's rules for leading a better life: *Use what you have; Share what you have; Respect nature; Make peace where there is war; You can reach your destination by taking small steps.* These ideas really resonant with our students. Third graders are creating cyber safety keynotes. Fourth graders are learning to make bibliographies from print and online resources and fifth graders are finishing a unit on web evaluation.

Thank you to the Wines community for your support of the library as volunteers, through the PTO, and by helping your child return their materials. What a pleasure it is to be the media specialist at Wines!

— Sally Evaldson

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Wed, Dec. 7 | Scholastic Book Fair | All school day |
| Thurs, Dec. 8 | Scholastic Book Fair | All school day |
| Fri, Dec. 9 | Scholastic Book Fair | 9:00 - 12:30 p.m. |
| Thurs, Dec. 22 | Winter Break Begins | 3:50 p.m. |



JANUARY

| | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| Mon, Jan. 9 | School Resumes | |
| Fri, Jan. 13 | Martin Luther King, Jr Celebration | |
| Mon, Jan. 16 | No School (Martin Luther King, Jr Day) | |
| Tues, Jan. 17 | Lunchtime "Extra Specials" Session I Begins | 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. |
| Tues, Jan. 24 | PTO Meeting | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. |

Check out the PTO website for more event details: <http://www.winespto.org>

If you would like to submit news for the Wines Times or the PTO website, please send the details (pictures are always great too!) to newsletter@winespto.org. We look forward to hearing from you.



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