



WINES TIMES

A Note from Dr. DeYoung



Dear Wines Families,

I wanted to provide some information about an exciting new initiative at Wines. As you may already know, we simplified our school rules this year to "Be Kind" and Be Safe" As a staff, we want to focus on ways we can help make Wines a safer and kinder community. Our school is a place where students of different races, families, ethnicities, faiths, abilities and gender identities come together. Understanding, discussing and valuing our differences is an important part of being a safe and kind community. Therefore, I am excited to announce that we have partnered with the *Human Right Campaign's (HRC) Welcoming Schools* program to make substantive steps towards making the Wines community even more safe and kind. This past August all of our staff underwent professional development training by the HRC trainers. More staff training will take place in January 2018. Excitingly, the same HRC trainer will be running parent-focused sessions during Parent Involvement Day in February! Look for more information about our parent sessions as we approach the date. Soon, you will be seeing 'family book bags' going home periodically with students. Each grade has a set of 8-10 age-appropriate books that can encourage family discussions and provide opportunities for our students to learn kindness and empathy. For a comprehensive listing of the books, see [Welcoming Schools Family Books](#). Our librarian, Sally Evaldson, has used the extensive book recommendations from the HRC to substantially increase the number of books available for checkout that reflect the diversity of people in the world. There are several other initiatives underway, and I look forward to sharing those with you in the future. I am thrilled that we have made 'Be Kind/Be Safe' a focus for the year, and how these rules intersect with our efforts to make sure that all students and families, regardless of race, faith, ethnicity, gender orientation, and ability feel welcome at Wines.

HELLO FROM THE PTO

For those of you who are new to Wines, the PTO sends out our newsletter, the Wines Times, approximately once a month. In it, you will find details about upcoming events, news about ways in which the PTO supports Wines, opportunities for involvement, and updates from specials teachers (art, library/media, music, and P.E.) at Wines, as well as updates from the Ann Arbor PTO Council (PTOC). We encourage you to become familiar with the Wines Times and to send any items you would like to

include in the next issue to newsletter@winespto.org. Please also visit our Website, winespto.org. Here, you will find links to past newsletters and other documents. You can see an updated PTO calendar, and donate money to Wines.

If you are holiday shopping, it's a great time to link your Amazon account to the Wines PTO! It's easy to do, and doesn't cost you anything! To set it up: **1.** Go to smile.amazon.com and sign in **2.** Select "Wines Parent Teacher Organization" as your charity **3.** Always shop at smile.amazon.com. Shopping on the Amazon app or on Amazon.com does NOT earn Wines PTO your sales percentage. You must shop on smile.amazon.com. If you shop with the app, once everything is in the cart just go to smile.amazon.com to complete your transaction.

NEW! – STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE --NEW!

Thank you to everyone who collected/donated money to help children all over the world who are less fortunate. Our goal here at Wines School was to raise \$500 for UNICEF! We are very pleased to announce that we passed our goal. We raised \$1,193.35! That is more than double the goal of \$500! Great job Wines Wildcats! Just think, this generous donation can go a long way for buying many items that kids all over the world need.

Every 50 cents = 1 packet of ready-to-use food to help save a malnourished child
Every \$2 = 10 bars of soap to keep kids clean and healthy
Every \$5 = 1 UNICEF backpack for a kid to go to school
Every \$7 = 1 volleyball for kids to play and learn teamwork



Thank you, again for participating in the Wines 2018 Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!

Your Wines Student Council

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!****Lunchtime “Extra Specials” Needs You!**

One of our students’ favorite activities of the year, **Lunchtime Extra Specials**, **urgently needs a coordinator!** Extra Specials are scheduled to begin the week after we return from winter break and we still need a volunteer to oversee this activity. In Extra Specials, students are offered the opportunity to take one lunch recess period per week (for each of two, three-week sessions) to stay indoors and engage in an activity that is facilitated by a parent volunteer. Responsibilities of the coordinator include the following:

- Establish a list of activities offered during extra specials, based on parent volunteer preferences
- Assign students to one extra special activity of his/her choice for each of the two sessions
- Ensure available space and materials are available for participants

The parent volunteer who coordinated Extra Specials last year is still at Wines but has taken on additional responsibilities and needs someone to manage the Extra Specials process. She is happy to help show a new volunteer the ropes and get kids assigned to activities. We have plenty of parent volunteers who have offered to run various Extra Special sessions and now just need someone to manage the details. **We must have a volunteer in place by December 12 in order for Extra Specials to proceed.**

Any questions, please contact Jill Coultas jcress18@hotmail.com or Stacy Guldal stacyguldal@gmail.com

Book Fair is Here!

The Wines Scholastic Book Fair is here! This is a great fundraiser for the school and provides fabulous books for the school and for your Holiday shopping needs! We always need volunteers for a successful fair. Please sign up to volunteer for a shift or two at the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A8A722A64-book>

Email sknmd17@gmail.com with any questions.

GREAT IDEAS GRANTS

Do you have a great idea? The Great ideas Grant program is an opportunity for Wines students, parents, and staff to turn a great idea into a funded program to benefit the Wines community! Submissions from the November deadline are under review! Be on the lookout for which idea is awarded a grant! The grant approval committee meets twice a year to vote on applications. Submissions are now accepted online only. Stay tuned for the next deadline and get your **Great Ideas** ready! For more Information contact Sumi Sood – sumi.sood1@gmail.com.



SCIENCE AND BUILDERS FAIR

Special thanks to all who participated and volunteered at the 2018 Science and Builders Fair. Ms. Schemanske's PLTW display and Skyline Robotics Team were a great compliment to the incredible student displays. Great job to all who participated and thank you to all who attended. Be sure to check out the website gallery to see photos of this year's event. winesscienceandbuilders.weebly.com

REPORT FROM THE PTO COUNCIL

Jill Anthony Stephenson, Chair of PTO Council & Co-PTOC Representative for Wines
Molly Bazzani, Co-PTOC Representative for Wines

Hello! I am Jill Anthony Stephenson and I am so happy to represent Wines Elementary as the Chair of the Ann Arbor PTO Council. PTOC is an independent, nonprofit entity that provides a forum for AAPS community members to communicate with each other, ask for advice or help, and deal with issues of common concern. PTOC Representatives from all 32 Ann Arbor Public Schools are ambassadors for their school PTO to the other schools and the district. All AAPS parents, teachers, and students are members of the PTOC. Please feel free to email me at ptocexec@gmail.com or join us for our Q&A sessions at the end of each member meeting. PTOC meets once a month on a Monday at 7 pm in the Balas Administration Building Main Conference Room. Below is the update on the Water Testing Program and the October meeting.

AAPS Drinking Water Testing Program

AAPS recognizes the importance that hydration plays in nurturing healthy bodies and minds. Some parents may choose to send their child to school with a water bottle filled at home. Leaders in every building in the district continue to educate children and staff to use trusted water sources for drinking. Additionally, lead-filtered hydration stations are being installed or replaced in each school. AAPS is committed to achieving the lowest possible levels of lead in drinking water and take very seriously the risks associated with lead exposure, especially in the youngest children. The district will mitigate and repair water fixtures that were identified with higher levels. "Testing for Lead Drinking Water Program Information" will be added as an annual report to the Board of Education to ensure that the Board and community receive this information updated directly each year. A thorough overview of AAPS efforts is available here [Water Testing](#). Answers to common questions about lead in drinking water are here [Common Questions](#) and here [More Common Questions](#).

October 15th PTOC Member Meeting

Superintendent Swift shared district updates with topics informed by PTOC members. Topics included information on the district's plan to handle lead in the water system, overview of Listen and Learn 2018, an update on strategic planning for the district, fine-tuning our approach to the Third Grade Reading Law, social and emotional behavioral supports in our schools, efforts to support mental health issues, and the district's evolving equity plan. Some highlights include:

- AAPS has developed an extensive plan to handle lead in the water system [Water Testing Plan; More on the Water Testing Plan](#).
- Listen and Learn 2018 had 4,362 participants with 7,041 thoughts contributed on the online Thoughts Exchange program and 86,892 ratings assigned to relevant issues. Diversity and inclusion were the #1 topics mentioned by our school community. AAPS is developing a school district equity plan that is in the emergent phase (systems, leadership, culture, classroom practices, family, and community).
- AAPS has a 6-year plan to reduce suspensions across the district.
- Young Fives offered at every elementary building is an equity strategy [Young Fives](#).
- Project-based learning and STEAM programming is offered at every level this year, including preschool [Project-Based Learning and STEAM](#) & [Project-Based Learning and STEAM](#). The District STEAM Expo was at Skyline High School on 29 November from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.
- The International Baccalaureate Program at Mitchell, Scarlett, and Huron are in their 4th year [IB Program](#) & [IB Program](#).
- Huron High has launched the International Baccalaureate Career Program for juniors and seniors interested in automotive, business/marketing, and engineering. AAPS is the first district in Michigan to offer an IB program with a head start in a specific career focus [IB Program Career Focus](#).
- Bryant and Pattengill elementary schools are being redesigned as a 'Super Pair' with new programming and building upgrades in the next year and beyond [Super Pair](#).
- Carpenter Elementary has begun the transition from a Preschool-5th grade to Preschool-8th with a new grade added each year. Building expansion is expected to serve the growing student population.
- A focus on World Languages has expanded in the past few years with a track for students to follow a path of learning foreign language from preschool through graduation [World Languages Track](#).
- Freeman Environmental Education Center opened at 3540 Dixboro Lane in Superior Township on October 17th [Freeman Environmental Education Center](#). The dedication ceremony for the 40-acre property celebrated the beginning of hands-on learning opportunities in nature for preschool through 12th grade, including habitat and life cycle walks, lessons on Winter survival, climate, forestry, and farm-to-school food initiatives.
- AAPS is committed to educating all children to third grade reading competency. Literacy experts are stationed in all elementary schools and K-8 campuses. A Dyslexia Specialist is available for consultation. AAPS is developing individual literacy plans and making ongoing adjustments to support instruction and intervention [Individual Literacy Plans](#).
- AAPS remains committed to supporting mental health needs of students and staff [Mental Health Commitment](#).
- AT Results for AAPS with Comparison to Other Michigan Districts [SAT](#)
- School Funding Decline in the State of Michigan [School Funding Decline](#)



A WORD FROM THE ART ROOM

Greetings from the art room,

We've been working on so many great pieces of art here in the art room. In 3rd grade students looked at the work of Wassily Kandinsky before challenging themselves to create a composition with just a few shapes and lines. They used a combination of oil pastel and watercolor paint in their work. In 5th grade students are working on some amazing parodies of American Gothic by Grant Wood, using colored pencil and crayon. The kindergarteners have been making snakes decorated with some very elaborate patterns. Young 5 students have just finished making some very nice fall landscapes with trees. In 1st grade we've been spending time drawing pumpkins with pastels that have been put on a woven background. While the fourth graders have gotten their recorders in music class, here in the art room they have been designing their own instruments with cut paper. The ideas and designs they've come up with are wonderful, I just wish we could actually hear how they sound. In 2nd grade the students spent some time looking at landscapes and more specifically cityscapes before creating their own, with pen, crayon, and watercolor paint.

Joel Wyse, Art Teacher

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Hello Wines Families,

The music making in the music room this year so far has been incredible. Here's just a small peak into the music classes of our Wines Wildcat musicians:

Young 5s are having fun finding their singing voices. Kindergarteners can audiate, and find the resting tone to a song. 1st graders are learning how to move through music with flow and beat. Second graders are beginning to label major and minor tonality, as well as music in duple and triple meter. Third graders are working on reading rhythm patterns in triple meter and turning them into ostinati (repeated musical patterns) during songs. Recorder Karate has begun in fourth grade music, and the fourth graders are well on their way to earning some belts! 5th graders are playing ukuleles in order to study harmony, and were even able to figure out how to harmonize a song with tonic and dominant chords. In the past, it has been exciting to see how quickly our students are growing musically in the first few months of school, and this year is no exception.

Dates for this year's grade-level performances will be chosen soon, and will be shared shortly - don't worry though, there won't be any until after the Winter Break. As always, please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

Fondly,

Ms. Jessica Glaser, Vocal Music Teacher | glaserj@aaps.k12.mi.us | winesmusic.weebly.com



NOTES FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Greetings from the Library!

All classes are practicing basic technology skills. The Young Fives, Kindergarteners, and Hospadaruks are developing small motor control of the mouse through websites and Kid Pix. They are beginning to learn to navigate by reading the icons, back buttons and so forth. We add a few new skills to each class, especially as their reading improves.

First and Second Graders are researching through literature and other sources and making projects using Kid Pix and Pages. First graders are learning about Abraham Lincoln and the Second graders are enjoying the Paul Bunyan tall tales. These are integrated units. Last week, we looked at atlases and next week, they will be making maps!

Third Graders are teamed up to create cybersafety Keynotes. This is a great opportunity for families to discuss online personal and digital safety. Let's raise empowered digital citizens!

Fourth and Fifth Graders are evaluating websites and verifying facts. Fourth Graders are also using online references such as the thesaurus. Fifth graders are writing their book recommender podcast scripts.

Especially at the beginning of the year, I try to fit in as much keyboarding as possible for first through fifth grade and the Grays. If you allow screen time, this is a very beneficial skill to practice at home. They are all refining their search skills with the online catalog, Destiny. These skills translate to internet search and empower the students to select their preferred reading materials. Search continues all year.

Best wishes, Sally Evaldson

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Tuesday January 22	PTO Executive Board	6:00pm
	PTO General Board	7:00pm

Wednesday January 30	International Night	6:30pm
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FEBRUARY

Monday February 11	Parent Involvement Day	See PTO calendar
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Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP



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Celebrating 25 Years of supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools' students through the resale of unique and gently-used community donations.

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We have everything – for every holiday – that you're looking for!

 Does winter have you feeling restless? Need to treat yourself? 
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