

Primer for the Wingra School Calendar

You may have looked at the one-page yearly calendar you received this summer and felt a bit overwhelmed. What the heck is all of this stuff, and do you have to be there?

Use this primer to help demystify a year jam-packed with events, conferences, field trips, and social events. Here's how it's organized:

- The first section, "Events and Conferences," describes events and conferences that could affect your family's weekly schedule.
- The second section, "Life at School," explains special events and traditions that happen during the school day that are important to your child but may not affect your family's regular schedule.

The descriptions and information for events in this document are also available online at www.wingraschool.org/calendar. Please know that the times for events sometimes change. Check the online calendar and the weekly e-newsletter for the most accurate information before an event.

Events and Conferences

Below are the events and conferences that are most likely to apply to you and your family (except some of the level-specific overnight camping trips).

The items highlighted in red show **required conferences and informational meetings**.

The items in green are our **major events**. We hope all Wingra families will consider being part of these events! If you can't make any other social events, put these five on your calendar!

Nest Open House

Who: Nest Parents and Students (New and Returning)

When: Friday, August 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

What: Spend time with the teachers and families in your Nester's class and learn a little about the classroom.

Where: Nest Classrooms (Rooms 100 and 102)

New Family Orientation:

Who: Parents New to Wingra

When: Tuesday, August 30, 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

Where: Library/Commons

What: Drop your students off in their classrooms and then come to the Library/Commons. Meet the administrative staff and other parents new to Wingra. It's a chance to socialize and learn more about how Wingra works.

Family Picnic and Ice Cream Social

Who: Current Wingra Families

When: Thursday, September 1, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Westmorland Park Shelter, 4114 Tokay Boulevard in Madison. Rain or shine!

What: It's a picnic with your family and a chance to socialize with other Wingra families. The Board of Trustees serves ice cream at 6:00 p.m.

Lake Overnight Camping Trip

Who: Lake Students

When: Monday and Tuesday, September 12 and 13

Where: Upham Woods

What: Lake students go on their annual overnight camping trip. What a great way to kick off the year! Lake students will receive the details in their Friday Folders.

New Band Parent Meeting

Who: Parents of Students Beginning Band (Must be 9 years old by Sep. 1)

When: Thursday, September 15, 8:00 p.m.

Where: Room 106

What: Learn more about the band program from Yvonne Schwinge, Band Director. A representative from White House of Music will be available. For more information, email Yvonne at yschwinge@mail.com. Students are welcome but not required.

Parent Night

Who: Current Parents

When: Thursday, September 22

Where: Classrooms and Library/Commons

What: You'll hear a presentation from the teachers in the Library/Commons, visit the All-School Teachers' classrooms (art, library and technology, music, physical education, and Spanish), and spend time in your student's classroom. Look for a schedule for the evening in the weekly e-newsletter a week or two before the event.

Goal-Setting Conferences (No School)

Who: Parents and Students

When: Friday, September 23, 15-minute conference

Where: Your child's classroom

What: This day is set aside for parents, students, and teachers to discuss goals for the coming year. Look for papers from your child's teacher and sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the playground (they're usually posted about two weeks before the conferences).

Each conference lasts about 15 minutes and includes your student.

What are they? Goal-setting conferences are held each September and goal-feedback conferences are convened each May. These two rounds of conferences center around each learner's individual goals and serve as important "bookends" to the learning year.

Extended Day programming is available on a first come, first served basis for those in need of child care for before and after your child's conference.

2nd Annual Fall Benefit: Friday Night Fever

Who: Adults—invite your friends and neighbors!

When: Friday, September 30, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 227 State Street, Madison

What: In honor of our 40th anniversary, Friday Night Fever will take you back in time to the 1970s. We will have music by local disco band VO5 and delicious hors d'oeuvres and gourmet desserts. Cash bar available all night. Proceeds from this event will go to support Wingra School's Joyce Perkins Scholarship Fund.

Come dressed in your fab '70s themed costume and you'll have a chance to win some DYNAMITE prizes!

Register at www.wingraschool.org/fallbenefit. Tickets are \$75.

Parent Coffee: 6-Week Check-in

Who: Current Parents

When: Friday, October 7, 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

Where: Library/Commons

What: How's the year going for you and yours? Connect with other Wingra parents, share how the new school year is going, and ask your questions.

Informal monthly Parent Coffees are held the first Friday morning of every month after this.

Wingra Family Dance

Who: Current Families

When: Friday, October 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Gym

What: The Wingra Family Dance is a free event for the whole family. Come to the gym and dance the night away. All students must have an accompanying parent.

State of the School

Who: Current Parents and Others Interested in Wingra's Future

When: Thursday, October 13, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Library/Commons

What: Join us for a meeting to learn more about where we are, where we're going, and how we get there. Hear from key administrative staff and board members about our strengths, challenges, and opportunities. A Q&A will follow the presentation.

Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)

Who: Current Parents

When: Thursday and Friday, October 27 and 28, 25-minute conference

Where: Your student's classroom

What: Parent/Teacher conferences are an opportunity to discuss your child with classroom (one or two) teachers, in 25-minute conferences. Look for a conference report from your child's teachers before you meet with them.

Conference sign-up sheets are typically posted about two weeks before conferences on the main bulletin board near the girls' bathroom on the first floor.

Your conference will be either October 27 or 28.

Extended Day programming is available.

Friends and Family Day (Noon Dismissal)

Who: Friends and Family Members Invited by Student

When: Wednesday, November 23, 8:30 to noon

Where: Classrooms and Gym

What: Friends and Family Day is our annual Open House for friends, extended families, and visiting alumni. Family and friends will participate in fun classroom activities, visit the amazing art gallery in the gym, and enjoy a sing-along at the end. School is dismissed at noon for Thanksgiving break.

Look for invitations in early November.

Sky Presentation

Who: Current Families Interested in Sky Program (Older Students Welcome)

When: Thursday, December 1, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Library/Commons

What: Interested in Wingra's Sky program (students 11 to 14)? Hear presentations from the teachers and ask your questions.

Band and Choir Winter Concert

Who: Everyone is welcome! Participating students from Pond, Lake, and Sky perform.

When: Thursday, January 19, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Gym

What: Brighten the winter with a band and choir concert. Families of performing students bring a snack or drink to share after the concert is over.

Alumni Night

Who: Parents and Students Interested in the Transition to High School

When: Thursday, February 2, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Library/Commons

What: This annual evening is for parents and students to hear from Wingra School alumni about their transition experience to high school. It's a fun evening for older students to reconnect with friends who

have left and to get tips about how to navigate high school. Parents enjoy hearing from both alumni and their parents about the transition.

Solo & Ensemble Evening

Who: Everyone is welcome!

When: Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Gym

What: This concert features an evening of music performed by all band members and interested Lake and Sky students.

Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)

Who: Current Parents

When: Friday, February 24 and Friday, March 2, 25-minute conference

Where: Your student's classroom

What: You will schedule your second Parent/Teacher conference of the year on one these days. It's an opportunity to discuss your child with classroom (one or two) teachers, in a 25-minute conference. Look for a conference report from your child's teachers before you meet with them.

Conference sign-up sheets are typically posted about two weeks before conferences on the main bulletin board near the girls' bathroom on the first floor.

Your conference will be either February 24 or March 2.

Extended Day programming is available.

Community Celebration

Who: Everyone is welcome!

When: Saturday, May 5

Where: Wingra's Front Lawn

What: Celebrate Wingra's 40th anniversary with games, live music, and a cake auction. Look for more details in the weekly e-newsletter closer to the event.

Kids' Night Out

Who: Everyone is welcome!

When: Thursday, May 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Gym

What: Lake (ages 9-11) and Sky (ages 11-14) students write, cast, direct, and perform skits at this annual event.

Goal-Feedback Conferences (No School)

Who: Parents and Students

When: Friday, May 18, 15-minute conference

Where: Your child's classroom

What: This day is set aside for parents, students, and teachers to discuss goals for the coming year. Look for papers from your child's teacher and sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the playground (they're usually posted about two weeks before the conferences).

Each conference lasts about 15 minutes and includes your student.

What are they? Goal-Feedback Conferences are the second part of the Goal-Setting Conferences in September. During these 15-minute conferences, parents, students, and teachers discuss how those early goals were achieved or changed over the course of the year.

Look for information from your child's teacher and the sign-up sheets (posted two weeks before near the doors leading to the parking lot).

Extended Day programming is available.

Ponders Wander

Who: Pond Students

When: Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25

What: Pond students spend two days taking educational field trips. They sleep overnight at school and eat pancakes in the gym on Friday morning.

Sky Camping Trips

Who: Sky Students

When: Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25

What: Rooms 200 and 202 take their annual overnight camping trips.

Spring Concert

Who: Everyone is welcome!

When: Thursday, May 31, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Overture Playhouse Theater

What: Every Wingra student has a role in this concert. There's dancing, singing, poetry reading, instrumental performances, and great costumes and backgrounds.

Graduation Picnic and Ceremony

Who: Everyone is welcome!

When: Friday, June 8, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Olin-Turville Park Shelter

What: The celebration begins with a potluck picnic at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share that serves 10 to 12 people and your own dishes, silverware, beverages, and a picnic blanket. Wingra provides the cake.

The ceremony starts at 7:00 p.m. Teachers introduce each graduate with a poem. Then each graduate shares a special message reflecting on his or her time here. Bring your hankies!

Life at School

Along with the events outside of regular school hours, there are a lot of special events or programs that go on during the school day. Some of these events or activities happen every month. Some are spread out throughout the year. Others happen one special day or month.

They're an important part of your child's life at school but may not involve you too much.

Field Trips

Wingra teachers draw frequently and extensively from resources beyond the walls of the school. Field trips and community involvement are important parts of the curriculum. Monthly visits to the downtown library, the "ropes course," American Players Theater, theater productions in Madison and Milwaukee, and museum and farm visits are some of the favorite trips taken each year.

These will be added to the online calendar as they're scheduled, and you will receive information in your Friday Folders or by email before the trip.

Friday Rotations

Students participate in one of these four activities on Fridays, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Friday Follies

The whole school gathers in the gym for Friday Follies. Classrooms take turns hosting Follies, in which individuals, small groups, or entire classrooms share music, skits, announcements, and projects. It's not a formal performance, but a time for everyone to be together and share some fun.

Families are always welcome to attend Friday Follies in the gym, a classic Wingra tradition.

All-School Choice

Each student can choose one or more activities from a wide variety that teachers and parent volunteers offer in each classroom. A favorite tradition of Wingra students, All-School Choice is fun and an opportunity for students of all ages to mix and become familiar with other classrooms and teachers.

In-Room Choice

Each classroom offers activities for students in that level.

All-School Games

Students are divided into six mixed-age teams. They spend an hour together each month playing indoor or outdoor games. Students also gather in these groups during the first week of the All-School Unit.

Independent Projects

Students in each level choose a topic based on their own curiosity and interests and share their findings with classmates and families through oral presentations and classroom fairs. The process is structured to suit each age group and is one unit of study during the year.

These projects go by different names and acronyms, from Interest and Activity Projects (IAP), Independent Research Projects (IRP), and Independent Projects (IP).

The time varies from level to level but usually happens between January and March. Look for information from your child's teachers as this unit gets going.

Families and friends are invited to each level's fair (usually in the gym). It's a great time to see all the variety of interests in each age group and hear students talk about a subject that they've worked so hard to learn about.

All-School Unit

Who: Current Students

When: March 19 to 30

What: Each year Wingra teachers develop an All-School Unit (ASU) of study. The whole school explores the theme in all kinds of ways. For two weeks, classes mix, ages intermingle, and kids work collaboratively on projects or activities. The ASU work happens for about two hours each day during these two weeks, so students are still doing their regular classroom activities during the rest of the day.

Generally, during the first week, students go from workshop to workshop with their mixed-age group to get a taste of the variety of subjects within the theme.

Then, during the second week, students do an in-depth exploration of one of the areas that they found particularly interesting. Students also go on field trips and hear guest speakers about their topics.

Past units include Do It Ourselves, Food, Water, Change, Time, Bridges, Going Green, Science Camp, and Architecture.

As you can imagine, we always have lots of ways for parents to help out. Keep an eye on the weekly e-newsletter for more information about the theme and ways to be involved in March.

Duck Day

Who: Current Students

When: Tuesday, May 1

What: This is the day we celebrate buying our school building, which we rented from 1972 to 2007. Special treats are served at lunch, and someone might just show up in a duck costume.

Switcheroo and Visitors Too Day

Who: Current Students and Incoming Students and New Parents

When: May 22, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Classrooms and Library/Commons

What: New and returning students get to visit classrooms in their levels for next year. Incoming parents get a chance to meet with Mary and Paul, plus other admin staff, to discuss our program and address questions.

Fun Day

Who: Current Students (Sorry, we cannot accommodate siblings.)

When: Tuesday, June 5

Where: Front Lawn

What: Fun Day is always a highlight of the school year for our students. We are outside all day. (It's only rescheduled if there are heavy thunderstorms.)

Each class spends about 45 minutes at each of the seven stations:

- Dunk tank and face paint
- Obstacle course
- Book fair
- Gardening
- Box maze
- Wet 'n wild and parachute games
- Water slide

Pizza is served at noon, and everyone gets ice cream at the end of the day.

Events for Prospective Families

Finally, on the school calendar, there are two Open Houses listed. These are for prospective families, but we hope current families invite their friends to check out Wingra during one of these special days.

Open Houses

Who: Prospective Families

When: Saturday, January 21, 10:00 to noon and Sunday, February 12, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Library/Commons

What: Prospective families are invited to tour the school and visit with teachers. Current parents are their tour guides and provide refreshments in the Library/Commons.