



A Message to Our Communities

The new school year is in full swing, and our team has embraced it with creativity, enthusiasm, and hope. Below are recent highlights.

Of particular note is a video link to a virtual program presented by the Greater Hartford YWCA on children, mental health, and going back to school. Wheeler's Melissa Mendez, LCSW, IMH-E, director of Early Childhood Programs, was part of that panel discussion and presents some great strategies for helping children continue to navigate this uncertain time.

Thank you for all you do to support our work and the students we serve. As always, our safety plans are posted to our website at WheelerHealth.org/NVS.

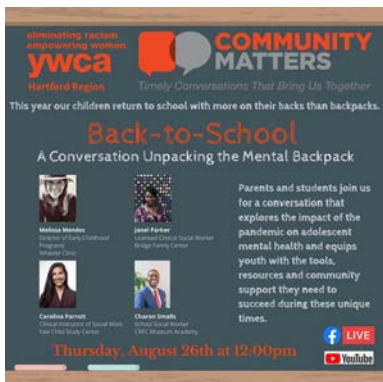
Sincerely,
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Of Mermaids (and So Much) More

Recently, as part of Wheeler's ongoing celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Teo Anderson Diaz, LCSW, LADC, vice president of Wheeler's behavioral health services, read Jessica Love's "Julián is a Mermaid" to students. Afterward, Teo had an engaging discussion with students about differences in people and the importance of having the courage to strive to be whatever you want to be in life.



Back to School and Child Mental Health



Wheeler's Melissa Mendez, LCSW, IMH-E, director of Early Childhood Programs, joined a panel of experts recently in a virtual discussion, "Community Matters: Unpacking the Mental Health Backpack." The panel focused on how children and adolescents are coping with pandemic-related trauma, particularly in light of their return to school and available resources. View the full video [here](#).

Our Gardens Grew, and We Did, Too



Our students helped our flower and vegetable gardens thrive this past summer, while simultaneously learning about the wonders of science. We entered this new school year reflecting the same kind of optimism and patience. More stories about our garden and other science-related activities can be found [here](#).

Our Take on a Time-Honored Tradition

We wrapped up our Extended School Year (ESY) program in late July with an event that explored and celebrated facets of the 2021 Summer Olympic Games, from learning how medals are made, to athlete nutrition regimens, Olympic stadiums past and present, and much more. Student artwork, displays, and presentations were shared with family, friends, and leaders from across Wheeler.



Questions? Concerns? Feedback?

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Or visit: WheelerClinic.org/nvs

Visit our website

