

May 15, 2020

## **Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Update**

### **A Message From the Dutch Neck Administration**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we continue to embark on this journey together, we believe that among the most important lessons we can teach our children is the value of perseverance, resilience, and grit when faced with challenges in life, and we need not look any further than our current circumstances to find the perfect context for this valuable learning opportunity. There is no success without failure; there is no triumph without struggle; and there is no better way to build strength of character than persevering through challenging times and emerging on the other side to know that we overcame those challenges. Thank you for modeling patience, resilience, and perseverance; your children notice and are growing as a result. Please know that you are not in this alone; we remain committed to supporting students and their families, and we are available as partners with you during this situation and, of course, even after it's long behind us.

As Dr. Aderhold shared last week, the district is working on a plan for closing out the school year. Instruction will continue to be provided via the online platforms with which students have become familiar, and teachers will continue to foster connection and social-emotional learning via synchronous (live) opportunities for students to engage with their teachers and with one another. Additionally, we are working on plans for making the most of current circumstances in order to provide many of the events and traditions that typically mark the conclusion of the school year. In the coming weeks, we will share information regarding virtual orientations for parents and students transitioning to a new school in September, virtual Field Day experiences for students, end-of-year recognitions for our students moving on to new schools, and procedures for the safe collection of district materials and distribution of students' belongings left in classrooms. While these events will certainly look different this year, we look forward to finding ways to capture the spirit of tradition and celebration that all of our students deserve.

As a reminder, we continue to be here to support you and want to assist you as needed. We have resources available to families in need.

- Families who qualify for free or reduced meals are being supported by bi-monthly food distribution. If your circumstances have changed and you need assistance in this area, please contact either the guidance counselor, nurse or building administrator.
- Technology is another resource available. Families who are having difficulty with their school-issued device or for those families who need access to a device for their child, please complete this [form](#). Once you complete this form, you may report to High School North on Tuesday or Thursday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to get the tech support or sign out a device. Please note: The form must be completed prior to going to High School North. You will not receive a notification to report to the high school; please go to High School North on the next Tuesday or Thursday following submission of the form.
- In addition to the curriculum that is being provided virtually, we also support any student who is struggling with the circumstances and loss of being at school with peers and teachers. If your child is experiencing difficulty, please reach out to his/her teacher, guidance counselor, CST, or building administrator for support.

Please know that we continue to miss seeing your children daily, and we are here to support your families in any way possible during these unprecedented times. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,  
David Argese and Laura Bruce

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## School Updates

### PTA News:

- **Virtual Ninja Warrior Training Event: May 16, 2020, 2-3 p.m.**  
The Dutch Neck PTA and Liberty Martial Arts proudly present Ninja Warrior training virtually to all Dutch Neck families. The training includes exciting martial arts, cool self-defense techniques and Ninja warrior fitness drills. Here are few things that will keep you Ninja ready for the event:
  1. You could be a star! We will be spotlighting Ninjas throughout the event. Earn a free 8-week martial arts course and a printable certificate.
  2. Wear comfortable clothing. Dutch Neck t-shirts or Dutch Neck colors would be great. No dresses or skirts.

3. Keep a pillow handy for the kids to try out some cool moves with their siblings or grownups.
4. Keep a water bottle next to you to stay hydrated.
5. Socks or bare feet would be ideal.
6. For a better view log into Zoom from a laptop/computer and make sure your video is working and we can see all the participants.

Please click [here](#) for the flyer.

**\*NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.\***

Zoom details: Meeting ID - 810-3632-1740, Password - dexter.

## Reminders:

- **Assistance:** If your child needs assistance, please email us at [dne@ww-p.org](mailto:dne@ww-p.org).
- **Attention Parents of Current 3rd graders:** Parents are reminded to login to Genesis in order to select their child's music ensemble choice for the 2020-21 school year. Specific details and instructions were emailed last week.
- **Absences:** If your child is ill, please note it in Genesis as usual. Please take care of yourselves and your family.
- **Grades K through 5 e-Learning Plans:** Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers will share links to the e-learning plans with their classes via email.
- **Spam Folder:** During this period of virtual/remote learning, our teachers will be reaching out via phone and email to students and parents. Please check your spam filters to ensure that emails sent from your child(ren)'s teachers are being directed to your inbox and not your spam folder.
- **Athletics:** Check out the latest edition of the [WW-P Athletics newsletter](#) featuring highlights of some of our amazing senior spring athletes, fall registration and more.

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## District Updates

- [District Website](#) | [COVID-19 Information](#) | [Virtual/Remote Learning Website](#)

## Counseling and Wellness

- **School Counselor Corner:** District K-5 school counselors have created a [grid](#) of activities to keep our students talking and thinking mindfully while the district is implementing virtual/remote learning.

- **Health Resources:** WW-P district nurses have pulled together [important health information](#) for families. Please check it out.
- **Counseling and Wellness:** The WW-P District Wellness Committee has created a [website](#) to promote the understanding that wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. Students, families, and staff are encouraged to embed these self care resources into their daily routine.

## **Dual Language Immersion Kindergarten for 2020-2021**

- The mandatory virtual WW-P Dual Language Immersion Parent Information Session is now live. Children entering kindergarten in September 2020 are eligible. [Check out the virtual session for information regarding the registration process.](#)

## **District Facilities**

- **Playground Equipment and Athletic Fields:** All school playground equipment/athletic fields/courts/tracks/etc remain closed until further notice.

## **Food Services**

- If your child(ren) receives food benefits, please check your email for instructions.
- If your financial situation has recently changed and you would like information on food benefits, please click [here](#) for details and to download the application.

## **Registration**

- At this time, all student registration for incoming kindergarten students for the 2020-21 school year, as well as students moving into the WW-P Regional School District will be done by appointment and virtually until the district reopens. Please [click here](#) for more information and to begin the process.

## **State Information**

- **State of New Jersey:** [www.covid19.nj.gov](http://www.covid19.nj.gov) has been created as the official **COVID-19** information hub for the State of New Jersey. The website includes up-to-date information, services, where to find assistance, job opportunities, and more.

- **Remote Instruction Continues Through End of Academic Year:** On May 4, [Governor Murphy announced](#) the closure of all school buildings through the end of the academic school year.
- **A Program of Center for Food Action - Hunger Free New Jersey:** This non-profit organization is working with its partners to inform citizens of rapidly developing changes to address hunger during this crisis. For information and resources on programs such as NJ school meals, SNAP, WIC, and more, please visit the [organization's website](#).

## **Communications**

- WW-P uses SchoolMessenger as our [district communication tool](#). SchoolMessenger integrates with Genesis. It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis so that you may receive emails/texts/calls from WW-P.

## **Virtual Community Events**

- Community groups and organizations are beginning to organize virtual events. Click [here](#) for some upcoming virtual activities.

## **West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation**

- It's Teacher Appreciation Month! Show your appreciation to our heroic teachers and staff for their phenomenal work during this unprecedented time with a STAR. During the month of May you can honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal or a staff member who makes a difference in their life via [STAR Campaign](#). Your donation helps fund grants that enrich your child's education.

## **Board of Education Meeting**

- Check out the upcoming [Board of Education Meeting](#) dates. Agenda and materials for Board meetings are published after 3:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting.

**Make sure to follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.**

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Youtube](#)