

Jan. 29, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School

IMPORTANT

- The week of Feb. 1 is Hybrid 1. Please click here for the [Feb./Mar. Hybrid Week Calendar](#) as well as grade level sample rotations and schedules.
 - WW-P Schools and Board Offices will be closed Friday, Feb. 12. Schools will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 for Professional Development.
 - The Technology Help Center has moved to the Penn Lyle Road entrance at HS South (346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor). The Help Center will be operating out of the entrance to the new theatre. Parents and staff should pull up to the theatre entrance and wait in their car to be greeted by a member of the technology staff.
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PTA

International Carnival Challenge - Exciting news! Dutch Neck PTA is proud to announce that we will have two celebrated authors among our panel of judges.

- **Peter H. Reynolds**, author of *The Dot*, *Be You*, *Say Something* and many more
- **John Patrick Green**, author of the InvestiGATORS series, *Hippopotamister*, and the Kitten Construction Company series.

Our third grade teams are working very hard on their country presentations. We invite students from all grades to Zoom in, learn about different countries, and encourage the teams. The third grade teams will ask one question to their audience at the end of their presentation. The fastest finger with the correct answer will get a prize! So bring your listening ears!

International Carnival Challenge 2021 dates are Feb. 10 and 11, 2021, from 6-7:45 p.m. *Zoom details to follow soon*

Best of Me during Pandemic - We received 43 entries for the Best of Me during pandemic write up/poem contest. You can read and enjoy all the entries on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/dutchneckpta>

Become a PTA member - Click [here](#) to join the Dutch Neck PTA! Even if you cannot volunteer your time, show us your support by becoming a member today.

SEPTSA

- **WW-P Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA):** WW-P SEPTSA exists to support students and families of students with IEPs and 504 plans. Please join SEPTSA to be added to our mailing list and be sure to hear about upcoming events and speakers! Membership is open to all parents and families, older students (6th grade and above), and faculty and staff who support students with special needs. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.: Successfully Navigating the IEP Process:** Join us in a conversation with special education attorney Norma Francullo, based in Montclair, NJ, to discuss parental and student rights under special education law and how to work with school districts to build an effective IEP. Gain a better understanding of how to use data to write meaningful IEP goals and measure progress. To RSVP and receive the Zoom link for the meeting, or if you have questions ahead of time that you'd like to submit, please email Jennifer Riccards at jenballen@yahoo.com.
- **NEW! WhatsApp group for WW-P Special Education families:** If you would like to connect with other WW-P families of special education students via WhatsApp, please complete this form and we will add you when the group is started -- [Connect with WWP special ed parents](#)
- **WW-P Special Education Parent Advisory Group (S.E.P.A.G.):** To support parents of students with an IEP or 504 plan, and to provide input to the district on special education issues, the WW-P SEPAG meets regularly throughout the school year. Additionally, SEPTSA/SEPAG hosts monthly virtual "office hours" for informal conversation and advice regarding issues around IEPs/504 plans.
- **Next "office hours" is Sunday, Feb. 21, from 4-6 p.m.** Please contact Jennifer Riccards at jenballen@yahoo.com for more information or to receive the Zoom link. Future dates include March 21, April 18, and May 23. All times are Sundays from 4-6 pm. (If you cannot make one of these times and would like support or to connect with other families dealing with similar situations, please feel free to contact Jennifer at any time.)

Links: [SEPTSA Facebook Page](#) | [SEPTSA Website](#) | [Membership Form](#)

School

Health and Safety: Please remember to submit the Daily Health Screening form each day for your child(ren) on the days they will be attending school in-person. The Dutch Neck teachers and staff are following protocols including maintaining vigorous cleaning procedures, maintaining social safety distances, wearing masks and working hard to keep everyone safe. We appreciate your support with following CDC guidelines in order to keep all our students and staff safe.

Instructional Support for Families: As a member of The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP), WW-P benefits from the partnership with resources for our teachers. Now, TCRWP has compiled a variety of resources for families to support student learning in the varied environments this year. Please visit this link to consider resources you may find helpful: [TCRWP Resources for Families](#). Be sure to check out a few of their family videos (each less than 10 minutes) that show you games to play and other ways to support your child's literacy development. These can be accessed via their [YouTube](#) Channel or Padlets: [Pre-K-2nd Grade](#).

Character Education- Optimism: The Character Theme for the month of January is "Optimism." Optimism is the hopefulness and confidence about the future or the successful outcome of something. The year 2020 brought many challenges so it's only fitting to begin 2021 with a little bit of optimism. The children are exploring various resources such as videos, books, and activities that teach about optimism. They are participating in rich conversations with their peers and teachers and overall learning how to have a positive outlook. Below are two articles for parents to read to help talk about optimism and positivity at home with your children.

- <https://www.metroparent.com/daily/parenting/parenting-issues-tips/encourage-optimism-positive-thoughts-children/>
- <https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/6-tips-to-raise-an-optimist/>

Looking ahead... Screen-Free February dates are Thursday afternoons: **Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb 25**. Here are some ideas for [Screen Free Activities](#).

School Closed: Feb. 12 and Feb. 15 (Professional Development Day for teachers and staff)

- Mr. Argese & Mrs. Bruce

District: [WW-P District Website](#) | [Academic Calendars](#) | [Events Calendar](#)

Reminders

- Please click [here](#) for the Feb./Mar. Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade level sample rotations and schedules.
- **Screen-Free Afternoons:** February Screen-Free afternoons will be held on Thursdays. Click [here](#) for upcoming dates as well as each school's morning schedule on Screen-Free Afternoons.
- **Health Screening:** Please remember to complete the Daily Health Screening form for your child(ren) on the days they will be in-person. The form is located under the Forms tab in [Genesis](#).
- **Masks:** Please also be advised that neither neck gaiters or valve masks provide appropriate protection and are not permitted for use on school or district grounds. Please use a mask with two or more layers that fits snugly over the nose and face. If a student does not have an appropriate mask, one will be provided by the district upon request.
- **Contact Information:** Is your contact information up-to-date in Genesis? If your email or phone numbers have changed, please make sure to update your information in Genesis. If you would like to opt-in to receive SMS text messages from the District, please text "Yes" to "67587" from a cell phone that is listed with your contact information in Genesis. Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).

Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold was sent Friday, Jan. 22.

Counseling and Wellness

- **Virtual Parent University:** Please join us for our next **Virtual Parent University on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.** The topic will be "Coping with COVID-19: Video Gaming Addiction." For most players, playing video games is a fun activity, a way to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy a challenge, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, for some players, a video game hobby can escalate into an addictive disorder that takes over their lives. *Video Gaming Addiction* will examine the impact of video gaming on children and adolescents. Register in advance for this webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nq-nMI1fQGGg6RMCUylGxg
- To view other past Parent University presentations, click [here](#).

Curriculum and Instruction

- Have a question about Google Classroom? Not sure how to use Zoom? Check out these [resources for support](#) in the Families and Caregivers Tutorial Helpdesk.
- WW-P, as a member of The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP), benefits from the support with resources for our teachers. TCRWP has compiled a variety of resources for families to support student learning in the varied environments this year. Please visit TCRWP's [Resources for Families link](#) to consider resources you may find helpful including videos, authors reading their books, or register for FREE virtual office hours with a literacy expert.

Community Education

- Join Community Education for a virtual Spring Break experience!
- Virtual Spring Break registration has begun! New programs and vendors have been added. To view and register for programs, check out the brochure here: [2021 Virtual Spring Break Guide](#).
- *Take part in a virtual open house and have your questions answered! Community Education and the different program vendors will be hosting a Virtual Spring Break Open House on Saturday, February 20, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All information is listed on [page 11 of the brochure](#).*
- To register for Community Education programs, visit the [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

Food Services

- Distribution for WW-P students who currently receive food benefits will occur on a **weekly basis**. Distribution will be held Mondays (unless otherwise noted due to the school calendar) at High School North from 3-6 p.m. Families who receive benefits will continue to receive emails asking for a response regarding participation for the coming week. Completing the registration form in the weekly email is required prior to pick up.
- In conjunction with the federal government and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, a waiver has been issued that allows school-aged children access to nutritious meals. As a participant in the National School Lunch Program, all WW-P students are extended the opportunity to receive free breakfasts and lunches due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency. Click [here](#) for more information. Please register [here](#) by 12 p.m. Feb. 3, for the Monday, Feb. 8 distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Monday, Feb. 1 distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the Feb. 1 meal kit pickup, it will be held from 3 -6 p.m. at

High School North. For pickup, please have students' names on a piece of paper in BOLD letters and please wear a mask to keep volunteers safe during the check-in process.

- To view this month's menus, please click [here](#).

Technology

- WW-P students who need to request a device or with Chromebooks/iPads that are damaged or in need of repair should complete this [Google form](#) (students must log in to their Google account to access the form) and then come to High School South (346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor). Please enter using the Penn Lyle building entrance on Tuesday or Thursday from 12:45-3:15 p.m.

District Communication

- WW-P uses SchoolMessenger as our [district communication tool](#). It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis.

Virtual Community Events

- Click [here](#) for upcoming virtual events and activities from community groups and organizations.

WW-P Education Foundation

- Sign up for the [Julia Robinson Math Festival!](#) The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation is excited to announce the 4th annual JRMF event will be held virtually, Jan. 30, 2021, and Jan. 31, 2021. The festival is open to all K-8th grade students. If you love math or enjoy challenging yourself and would like to test your problem-solving skills. There will be a variety of fun and exciting activities for the students to explore, learn, and engage in, through collaboration and exploration. Space is limited.
 - Grades K-3 students, Jan. 30, 2-4 p.m. - <https://tinyurl.com/JRMFEvent>
 - Grades 4-8 students, Jan. 31, 1-3 p.m. - <https://tinyurl.com/JRMFEvent2>
 - For questions or more information:
email-info@wwpeducationfoundation.org
- The foundation is accepting requests through Feb. 10, for the [HEART Campaign](#). Give a Valentine's Day HEART to honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal, or staff member who makes a difference in their lives. Show them you love them!

WW-P Board of Education

- 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.

Follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)