

Feb. 05, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School

All WW-P schools and board offices will be closed Friday, Feb. 12. Schools will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, for staff professional development. There will be no newsletters Friday, Feb. 12.

IMPORTANT

- The week of Feb. 8 is Hybrid 2. 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.
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PTA

- **You're invited! Join us to understand everything about your child's academic learning.** Dutch Neck PTA's general meeting is Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. We have invited Dr. Nathan, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Bresnahan, Math Instruction Coach; and Mrs. Jablonski, K-5 Language Arts and ESL Supervisor, to speak about the curriculum. Have any questions about the curriculum or teaching methods? Please [click here](#) to submit your question before Feb. 20, 2021. Zoom details to follow soon.
- **Public Speaking Workshop - Only a few spaces left for K-1 grade students on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 5 p.m.** [Click here](#) for more details and to register. The last day to register is Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021.
- **International Carnival, Feb. 10 and 11 at 6 p.m. -** Come and see our third grade teams in action as they present LIVE in front of our prestigious panel of judges. Each team will ask one question to the audience at the end of their presentation. The fastest finger first will get a prize! [Click here](#) for Zoom links for both dates and other details.

- **Yearbook Mask Design Contest** - [Click here](#) for details. Last date to submit is Feb. 20, 2021.
- **Winners of Best of Me during Pandemic** - [Click here](#).
- **Proud moment for Dutch Neck PTA** - Our events VP, Anjali Kulkarni, who was recently featured in the Voices of West Windsor series to talk about the value of PTA. [Click here](#) to see her interview.
- **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.

- **The 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.

Technology Help Center: The Technology Help Center is located at High School South at 346 C larksville Rd., West Windsor (please use the Penn Lyle Road entrance). The Help Center will operate out of the entrance to the new theatre. Parents should pull up to the theatre entrance and wait in their car to be greeted by a member of the technology staff. The hours of operation are 12:45 - 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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) prior to arriving at the Technology Help Center.

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 was "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 explored various resources such as videos, books, and activities that taught about optimism. They participated in rich conversations with their peers and teachers and overall learned 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. 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:** Screen-Free afternoons will continue for the remainder of the school year. February Screen-Free afternoons will be held on Thursdays. March Screen-Free afternoons will be held on Wednesdays. 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](#).
- **Valentine's Day Senior Celebration Fundraisers**
 - **High School South Post Prom Celebration Committee is offering Valentine's Day jars!** Check out this opportunity to send your friends a jar of Kisses or 'Bursts on Saturday, Feb. 13. You can send a super-sweet Valentine to family, friends, WW-P teachers/staff AND to men and women that serve our towns at the West Windsor and Plainsboro Police Departments. You send your love and we will deliver. [Click here to place your orders.](#)
 - **High School North Senior Celebration Committee is offering Valentine's Day boxes!** Looking to celebrate your Valentine? Surprise them with a secret Valentine's Day box. Delivery will take place Thursday, Feb. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 14. The last day to order is Feb. 12. The first box is \$14 and subsequent boxes are \$12 each. [Click here for more information and to order online.](#)

Health and Safety

- A Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold will be sent this afternoon, Friday, Feb. 5.

Counseling and Wellness

- **Virtual Parent University:** Please join us for our next **Virtual Parent University on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 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.](#)
- 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.

Community Education

- Join Community Education for a virtual Spring Break experience! Virtual Spring Break registration is now open. New programs and vendors have been added. To view and register for programs, check out the brochure: [2021 Virtual Spring Break Guide](#).
- Community Education and the different program vendors will be hosting a Virtual Spring Break Open House on Saturday, Feb. 20, beginning at 10 a.m. Take part in the virtual open house and have your questions answered. 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. 10, for the TUESDAY, Feb. 16 distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Monday, Feb. 8, distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the Feb. 8 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

- 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](#)