

March 05, 2021

## **Dutch Neck Elementary School**

### **PTA**

**Spring Engineering and Science Classes** - Dutch Neck PTA has partnered with Kiddies Kaleidoscope again to offer unique, hands-on engineering and science exploration enrichment classes beginning the week of April 12, 2021. Their unique kits would be mailed directly to each child with all the materials needed to build/experiment with the instructor during the virtual classes. The science kits are completely different from the ones used in the winter. The deadline to register is March 19, 2021.

- Grades K-1 Science Classes: [Register here](#)
- Grades 2-3 Science Classes: [Register here](#)
- Grades K-2 Engineering Classes: [Register here](#)

For any questions, please email [dutchneckevents@gmail.com](mailto:dutchneckevents@gmail.com)

**Curriculum meeting, Feb. 25, 2021, [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#)** - It was a great informative session with lots of resources shared by the speakers and valuable Q&A.

**Become an Active PTA Member:** Are you interested in helping our school by serving on the Dutch Neck PTA Board or as a Committee Member for the 2021 - 2022 school year? If so, be a part of the PTA Board or chair an event! It is a great way to become involved in your child's school. All the positions currently require just working from home. Depending upon how many hours you would like to volunteer there are different roles. Have a voice, exchange ideas, share your talents, contribute to improving our children's school experience - and have fun while doing it! If you are interested or need some extra information, please email [dutchnecknominating@gmail.com](mailto:dutchnecknominating@gmail.com) by March 31, 2021.

**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.
- **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, March 21, from 4-6 p.m.** Please contact Jennifer Riccards at [jenballen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenballen@yahoo.com) for more information or to receive the Zoom link. Future dates include 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](#)

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## 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. Please complete the forms in a timely manner so it is filled out before your child boards the bus. 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.

**Student Picture Days:**

**Photo Information for Hybrid Students:**

- Wednesday, March 17, for Hybrid A
- Wednesday, March 24, for Hybrid B

Pictures will be taken during the school day. Student masks will be removed just prior to their picture being taken and immediately replaced afterwards.

Below is the link to the Photo Haven student portrait ordering website. NO paper ordering will be exchanged.

Package A through D will include a class composite and digital download. All the BYOP (Build Your Own Packages) include a digital download. Parents may order a class composite from the ***Prints Tab*** on the website. Class composites will not be delivered to the school until after retake day. A retake date has not yet been determined. **Link for Student Portrait Ordering:** <https://photohaven.orderschoolpix.com/42830>

**Photo Information for Virtual Students:**

**Option 1:** Virtual students who choose to be photographed should sign up [here](#) for a time slot in SignUpGenius. Time slots are available between the hours of 1- 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, and Wednesday, March 24, 2021. All photos will be taken in the cafeteria. Enter via door 6, it will be clearly marked. Social distancing protocols will be strictly followed.

**Option 2:** For virtual students who are not planning on coming to school to have their picture taken, there is still an opportunity to get your picture in the yearbook. Please [click here](#) for directions and the access link you will need for the virtual yearbook portrait site. The digital photo submission deadline is March 30, 2021!

**YEARBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ON SALE:** Order your copy of **Dutch Neck Elementary Diary - Pandemic Edition Yearbook!** Your student will not want to miss out on this memory book that they will treasure in the years to come. It would be a way for them to see and show how they overcame a pandemic! This year, Dutch Neck PTA has a special price offering of \$21, if you buy before April 30, 2021. The price after

April 30, is \$23. There are two shipping options: ship to your school for FREE pick up OR ship to your home for a \$4 charge. [Click here](#) to order yours today! For any questions, please email [yearbookdn@gmail.com](mailto:yearbookdn@gmail.com).

**Technology Help Center:** The Technology Help Center is located at High School South at 346 Clarksville 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](#).

**Looking ahead...** Screen-Free March dates are Wednesday afternoons: March 10, 17, 24. Here are some ideas for [Screen Free Activities](#).

**- Mr. Argese & Mrs. Bruce**

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

## **Reminders**

- Please click [here](#) for the March Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade-level sample rotations and schedules. The week of March 8, is Hybrid week 2.
- **Spring Break:** All WW-P schools will be closed Monday, March 29, through Sunday, April 4, for spring break. Should the District not require the use of an additional snow day, all WW-P Schools will also be closed Monday, April 5. Virtual board offices are closed Friday, April 2.

- School will resume after spring break with fully remote instruction for ALL students the week of April 6. In-person instruction will resume Monday, April 12, with Hybrid Week 1 and all-in students.
- **Screen-Free Afternoons:** Screen-Free afternoons will continue for the remainder of the school year. 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](#).
- **HSN KnightCare for Preschool-Aged Children:** High School North's Child Growth and Development class is accepting children, ages three and four, into their virtual classroom. The class uses the first semester of the school year to teach students in grades 9-12 the fundamentals of early childhood education. Please click [here](#) for more information.

## Health and Safety

A Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, March 5.

## Counseling and Wellness

- **Save the Date for the next Virtual Parent University:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 7 p.m. The topic will be "Coping with COVID-19: Child and Adolescent Anxiety." Clinicians from Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care will assist parents in understanding anxious feelings, worries, and fears that are common among children and adolescents. Coping strategies, supports, and resources will also be presented. Please register in advance for this webinar: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BNX8Q4ZVQJSubkJOU8ym1w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BNX8Q4ZVQJSubkJOU8ym1w)
- 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 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](#). Virtual Spring Break takes place from Monday, March 29-Thursday, April 1.
- Community Education will offer EDP full-day care at Village School for students in grades K-8 during full remote learning the week of April 6 (following Spring Break). Care is offered Tuesday through Friday. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).
- Virtual Spring After School Enrichment registration has also opened. Exciting new programs await! Session 1 runs from April 1- May 6. Session 2 runs from May 10-June 7. Check out the brochure here: [2021 Virtual Spring After School Enrichment](#).
- 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. March 10, for the Monday, Mar. 15, distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Monday, March 8, distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the March 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](#).
- Spring is right around the corner! Check out the [NJ Seasonality chart](#) provided by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. What are you planting in your garden this spring?

### **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**

- **Plainsboro Police Department:** During these unprecedented times, the Plainsboro Police Department invites the Plainsboro and West Windsor communities to join our FREE Virtual Interactive Policing program that will provide virtual and interactive seminars throughout the year. These seminars will address topics that have the greatest impact on the quality of life of our residents. For more information, please click [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for upcoming virtual events and activities from community groups and organizations.

### **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](#)