

April 16, 2021

## Dutch Neck Elementary School

### IMPORTANT:

- **Learning Model Changes**
    - Students who requested and were accommodated with a change to All-In or Hybrid Week 2 will be in-person the week of April 19.
    - Schedules for those students who will remain with their current learning model will remain unchanged.
  - **Transportation Reminder:** With additional students attending in-person instruction beginning Monday, April 12, parents/guardians are reminded to please check the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) for updated bus information. Adjustments to pickup times may occur throughout the weeks of April 12 and April 19 as buses settle into their updated routes.
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### PTA

**Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week May 3-7, 2021:** Please help the PTA raise funds to thank our wonderful teachers and staff. Our teachers have worked extra hard to make sure our children continue to progress in spite of the challenges this year. Please [click here](#) to contribute towards the gift. The deadline to participate is April 30, 2021.

**Don't miss the chance to have your child's picture in the yearbook with the rest of their classmates! The digital photo submission deadline is April 18, 2021:** For virtual students who did not come to school to have their photo 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. Make sure you choose a plain background as you take the picture.

**Yearbooks on Sale:** Order your copy of **Dutch Neck Elementary Diary - Pandemic Edition Yearbook!** 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! Any questions, please email [yearbookdn@gmail.com](mailto:yearbookdn@gmail.com).

**Dutch Neck Garden Update:** [Click here](#) to see the amazing clean up that Boy Scout Troop 66 did Saturday, April 10. Stay tuned to see how you can help!

**PTA Volunteer Opportunities for 2021-22:** There are two ways to volunteer - [click here](#) to help plan a particular event and [click here](#) to learn about the roles that have opened up to serve on the Dutch Neck PTA Board for the 2021-22 school year. All the positions are virtual. If you are interested in joining the board, please email [dutchnecknominating@gmail.com](mailto:dutchnecknominating@gmail.com).

**Thank you to all the families who supported our Chipotle fundraiser last weekend.**

## **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.
- **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, April 18, 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. May 23 will be the next day for office hours following the April 18 session. All times are 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

**PTA and Staff Support Dutch Neck Families Affected by Avalon Watch Fire:** As you probably are aware, the recent devastating fire at Avalon Watch Apartments has left many West Windsor families with huge losses. Three of those families are Dutch Neck School families. The Dutch Neck community would like to support these families and help them get back on their feet. Therefore, we will be accepting monetary donations, which will be used to purchase Visa gift cards and/or gift cards for area businesses so families can buy needed items to help restore their lives. If you would like to make a monetary donation (no donation is too small or too big), please use this link for the PTA Memberhub site to make your donation. Here is the link to Memberhub donation: <https://dutchneck.memberhub.store/store/items/768025>

We would like to provide this assistance to the families as soon as possible. Therefore, the deadline for donations will be Friday, April 23.

Thank you for your help,

The Dutch Neck Staff and PTA

**STEAM Day:** We hope your child enjoyed participating in this special virtual event last Thursday. Special thanks to Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. O'Connell, who have been planning STEAM Day for the past several months. We were fortunate to have several community members create pre-recorded videos presenting their expertise in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Students had the opportunity to participate in various activities to engage in learning around many fun and worthwhile topics.

**Field Day:** We would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Stevens, Ms. Bores, Mr. Patrone and Mr. Beesley for working with physical education teachers across all six elementary schools to design a fun and meaningful day for our students. We hope your child enjoyed participating in the events and were able to share pictures and video through Flipgrid. Hopefully you were able to engage in some of these activities too!

**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 **by the 8:15 a.m. deadline** 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.

**Reminder: Screen-Free Afternoons:** Here are some ideas for [Screen Free Activities](#). In April Screen-Free Afternoons will be Tuesdays. Upcoming April dates are April 20 and 27.

**Individual School Photos:** A date will be forthcoming for anyone who needs retakes.

**Yearbooks Now 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.

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

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

**Reminders**

- Please click [here](#) for the April Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade-level sample rotations and schedules. The week of April 19 will have Hybrid Week 2 and All-In students in-person.
- **Screen-Free Afternoons:** Screen-Free afternoons will continue for the remainder of the school year. April Screen-Free afternoons will be held on Tuesdays: April 20 and 27. 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](#). The form should be completed by 7:15 a.m. for middle and high school students and 8:15 a.m. for elementary school students.
- **Masks/Water:** Please 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. Students attending in-person instruction should bring a pre-filled water bottle with them to school.
- **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

- Click [here](#) to read the Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold that was sent Friday, March 19.

## Counseling and Wellness

- To view the 2020-21 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

- **Integrated Preschool:** Integrated Preschool [waitlist](#) registration to begin Monday, April 19, at 9 a.m. This program is available to a limited number of students for the 2021-22 school year. The waitlist is not a guarantee for a seat in

next year's classroom. We are currently working on the schedule and determining a safe number of students for each classroom.

- There is no cost to register for the waitlist. When spaces become available, Community Education will notify you by phone and email. Students must be 3- or 4-years-old by Oct. 1, 2021, and independently toilet trained.
- Set up your Community Pass account [here](#). When registering, look for the 2021-22 Integrated Preschool and Extended Day Program heading. You must register through Community Pass first.
- **Virtual Spring Enrichment Session 2:** Virtual Spring After School Enrichment registration is open for session 2! Exciting new programs await. Session 2 runs from May 10 through June 7. Check out the [virtual spring programs brochure](#).
- **Virtual Summer Programs:** Summer programs are now available for registration. These programs run June 21 - August 27. Take advantage of program savings by registering for classes before June 1. Check out the [virtual summer guide](#) and click [here](#) to register.

## 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. April 21, for the Monday, April 26, distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Monday, April 19, distribution has closed. If you register to receive the April 19 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](#). 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.

### **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.

### **WW-P Education Foundation**

- [Mercer Hacks](#) is a virtual hacking event proudly co-hosted by WW-P Education Foundation Youth Committee and Computer Science Remastered (CSR) April 23-25, 2021. Participation in the hackathon is FREE and open to all 8th-12th grade students. All students 6th grade and above are eligible and welcome to attend the seminars and workshops.
  - Register: <https://forms.gle/p6PtXWBzmpzTvtEo7>
  - Sponsors welcome: <https://tinyurl.com/HackathonSponsorshipPacket>

### **Virtual Community Events**

- 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](#)