

May 14, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School

PTA

Proud moment! Dutch Neck PTA won four prestigious NJPTA awards for 2020-2021 in the following categories: Diversity and Inclusion (3rd Grade International Carnival), Healthy Lifestyles (Ninja Warrior and Online Yoga), Arts in Education (Online Art Show and contests), and Membership and Outreach.

Yearbook Sale: You don't want your child to miss out on this special yearbook. Order your copy of **Dutch Neck Elementary Diary - Pandemic Edition Yearbook!** There are two shipping options: ship to your school for FREE pickup OR ship to your home for a \$4 charge. [Click here](#) to order yours today! Any questions, please email yearbookdn@gmail.com.

Dutch Neck Garden Update - [Click here](#) to see how the garden has been spruced up! We need your help to keep the garden going. [Click here](#) to sign up if you are interested in helping to maintain the garden. It could be a fun, safe and screen-free activity for the whole family!

Zoom recording of Coffee with the Principals from May 7, 2021: It was a very informative meeting about the many summer offerings from the Plainsboro Recreation Department. Unfortunately, the representative from West Windsor Recreation was unable to attend. [Click here for a listing](#) from their website about summer camps and classes. There were some updates from Mr. Argese about the fall too. [Click here](#) to view the recording.

Dutch Neck PTA Board 2021-22: The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate for the DN PTA Executive Board for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Co-President - Jennifer Robinson
- Co-President - Shobana Shenoy
- Secretary - Sonali Ganu
- Treasurer - Venkata Penneti

- Membership and Fundraising VP - Anjali Kulkarni
- Events VP - Priyanka Mehta
- Administration VP - Sarika Soman

The slate of officers will be voted on at the **Dutch Neck PTA Meeting on May 27 at 7:30 p.m.** via Zoom (TBA). If you would like to run from the floor, please email your candidacy information to the Nominating Committee at Dutchnecknominating@gmail.com before May 19, 2021. If you are interested in helping out with a particular event only please [click here](#).

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.
- **NEXT SEPTSA MEETING:** May 20, from 7-9 pm (virtual) - Estate Planning and Guardianship for Special Needs Children, presented by Hinkle Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law. This session will offer an overview of the need to ensure that your estate planning documents are in order to ensure that your child with special needs is financially protected and maintains eligibility for benefits after your death. A Q&A will follow the presentation. Please [click here](#) to attend.
- **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, May 23, from 4-6 p.m.** This will be the final office hours of this school year. Please contact Jennifer Riccards at jenballen@yahoo.com for more information or to receive the Zoom link. (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.)

- **AmazonSmile SEPTSA Fundraiser:** *REMEMBER YOU MUST LOG INTO SMILEAMAZON.COM FOR THE DONATION TO REGISTER* Choose #2681149 "Wwp Special ED PTSA." SEPTSA will receive a donation from Amazon amounting to .50% of every order as long as you've designated SEPTSA as your charity of choice and shop through Amazon Smile.
- **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](#).

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

School

PTA and Staff Support Dutch Neck Families Affected by Avalon Watch Fire:

Thank you for your generous support and contributions to the families affected by the Avalon Watch fire. Your community support and care demonstrates all that we already know-- the Dutch Neck family is strong and supports each other! Our sincerest thanks for your generosity.

Dutch Neck Educator of the Year: A heartfelt congratulations to the Dutch Neck Educator of the Year, Kristi Mattingly! She is a first grade teacher who was nominated and chosen by colleagues for this distinction. Mrs. Mattingly's warmth, caring, collaboration, and instruction make her so well deserved for this honor. Congratulations!

Student Material Pickup: If you have a virtual student and were not able to collect the final envelope of materials in the past few weeks, please do so this week. Materials for the rest of the year (including science materials and art supplies) are packaged by grade level and may be collected at the front door from 1:30 - 5 p.m. any afternoon.

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 form **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 May Screen-Free Afternoons will be Thursdays.

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

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

Reminders

- Please click [here](#) for the May/June Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade level sample rotations and schedules. The week of May 17 will have Hybrid Week 2 and All-In students in-person.
- **Memorial Day:** WW-P schools and board offices will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. Please [click here](#) for the 2020-21 school year calendar.
- **Screen-Free Afternoons:** Screen-Free Afternoons will continue for the remainder of the school year. Screen-Free Afternoons in May 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](#). 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](#).

- **HSN Job Skills Program Sponsored:** The HSN Knights' Armory and Job Skills Program have partnered with Inspired Threads, a company that provides positive, meaningful employment for people with disabilities and those facing other barriers to employment. This fundraiser offers the opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind blanket using your old t-shirts collected over the years. [Click here for more information](#). Use the code "KNIGHTS" at checkout.

Health and Safety

- Click [here](#) to read the Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold that was sent May 7.

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

- **Kindergarten Care**
 - A Kindergarten Care waitlist for the 2021-2022 school year will open Tuesday, June 1. Families will be able to register incoming kindergarteners for a space in Community Education's Kindergarten Care program, at a location or locations to be determined.
 - Register your child for the time opposite of their kindergarten schedule.
 - There is no cost to register for the waitlist. When spaces become available, Community Education will notify you by phone and email.
- **Virtual Summer Programs**
 - Community Education is offering hundreds of virtual summer program options! Check out the [Virtual Summer Guide](#) and take full advantage of the savings by registering for classes before June 1! (*Please note the price reductions for R2K Leadership*)
 - Community Education just added virtual [preschool summer programs](#) to the line-up! Students as young as 2-years-old and as old as 6-years-old

may sign up for virtual summer preschool programs. *(Please note the price reductions for Play Pattern.)*

- **Registering for Community Education Programs**

- Set up your Community Pass account [here](#). When registering, look for the 2021-22 Integrated Preschool, Kindergarten Care and Extended Day Program heading.

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. May 19, for the Monday, May 24, distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Monday, May 17, distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the May 17 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.

WW-P Education Foundation

- **Teacher Appreciation Month:** Our WW-P teachers and staff give the gift of love and care... honor them with a 'STAR'! Now is the time to acknowledge and appreciate their efforts with a 'STAR' certificate. The [WW-P Education Foundation](#) is accepting requests through May 31, 2021, for the [STAR Campaign](#). Give a STAR to honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal or staff member who makes a difference in their life. Your donation helps fund grants that enrich your child's education.

Community Events

- **STARTALK** - The West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District in collaboration with the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland offers a virtual STARTALK student program for Hindi and Urdu. Virtual classes will be offered to rising 3rd through 5th-grade students, heritage and non-heritage learners. No prior knowledge of the language is required. The program will be held virtually Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. from July 5 through July 31, 2021, (plus four Saturdays, 9 – 11:30 a.m.). Students that are enrolled in the summer language program will have access to the free 12 post-program classes starting Sept. 18, 2021. For more information and to register, [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](#)