

Sept. 17, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- We hope all of your children had a great first two weeks in-person all day at school!
- We are looking forward to Back to School Night. Although this year it will be virtual, we are looking forward to meeting you all in-person in the upcoming months during future events.
- Please take advantage of the **extended spirit wear deadline until Sept. 20, 2021**. Click the link that follows to order: <https://tinyurl.com/DNSpiritwear2021>. **If you pre-ordered a shirt at the open house, but haven't paid yet, please make sure to order and pay online.** For any questions, email dutchneckfundraising@gmail.com.
- Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who were able to help the school on short notice for the third and fourth days of school!
- If you would like to become a member of the PTA, please click the link that follows: <https://dutchneck.memberhub.store>.

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:** Join us on WhatsApp to connect with other WWP families of special education students. [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.

- **Office Hours, Sept. 19, 4-6 p.m., McCaffreys Café (upstairs)** – Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. Contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net or Veena Pai at veenapai.0408@gmail.com for more information. (If you have a question and this timing doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like support or to connect with other families dealing with similar situations, please feel free to contact Kathleen or Veena at any time.)

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

SCHOOL

We welcome you to Dutch Neck Elementary School. As we begin this school year, we want to extend a warm welcome to you, your child and your family. Hopefully, your child is excited about coming to school. We sincerely believe that parents should be active participants in their child's school program. We invite you to get involved in school and Districtwide committees, we ask that you join the wonderful Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and we ask that you attend the many exciting events that happen at Dutch Neck throughout the school year.

We hope your child(ren) had a wonderful first two weeks of school. We are so excited to be back and we are looking forward to an exciting 2021-22 school year. It was a joy to see them actively engaged in lessons in their classrooms, participating in gym class, eating in the dining room, being creative in the art room, reading in the media center and performing in the music room. Pure excitement was once again in the air throughout the school building. It was evident the students were happy to return and they are already settling nicely into their new routines, which will help support the learning process.

Please know this weekly newsletter will be our way to provide important school-related information and to celebrate positive news and achievements at Dutch Neck School. We look forward to working with you and look forward to a great school year with lots of learning and lots of fun!

Educationally yours,

David Argese, Principal
Laura Bruce, Assistant Principal

Below are some important dates to place on your calendars:

Virtual Back to School Nights (emails will come from the classrooms with more details):

- Sept. 20 (Kindergarten and first grade)
- Sept. 22 (Second and third grade)

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences:

- Oct. 12, 13, 14 (evening) and 15

Updated Parent Drop Off Procedures for the 2021-22 School Year:

During arrival in the morning, our buses drop off children on the left side of the school (when facing the building). There are staff members assigned at each location to monitor and assist with the students exiting buses and entering the building. Because of the number of buses in these areas, parents should not be parking and walking children to the front or side doors.

If you choose to drive your child to school for morning drop off (doors open at 8:40 a.m.), please enter the east parking lot (the parking lot to the right when facing the school) and drive around the parking lot towards the front of the school. In previous years we have had students get out and enter the building on the side. In order to get more traffic off of Village Road, please instead drive forward around the entire loop of the side lot and make a right within the parking lot so that you follow the building and go to the front of the school. When you are in the line in front of the building, you will notice about 6-8 cars stopped. The first car in the line pulls up further than the door where students enter the building and the remaining cars pull up one after the other. We ask that you remain in your car and follow the directions of the staff members who are assisting. Students should exit out of the cars on the side closest to the school and walk on the yellow lines that are on the other side of the barriers. After students enter Door 1, the next group of cars repeats the process.

We ask you to please be patient – the system is efficient and at most, you will wait a few minutes in the line. Please keep in mind that the start of the school day is 8:55 a.m. If you arrive at this time or later, you will need to park along the street or in the west visitor parking lot (the parking lot to the left when facing the school) and bring your child to the school through the front doors.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping to keep all of our students safe as they enter the school for the start of their great day.

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 12-15:** Elementary school students will have an early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed.
- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 14-15:** Students in grades 6-8 will have an early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences.
- **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 cellphone that is listed in your contact information in Genesis. Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).
- **Masks:** All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask while indoors regardless of vaccination status except under specified reasons that impact an individual's health. Valve masks and neck gaiters are not permitted for use in school or District grounds. Unvaccinated individuals are recommended to wear masks in outdoor settings.
- **Health Screening:** For the 2021-22 school year, parents/guardians should *ONLY* complete a Health Screening Form in the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) for their child(ren) if one or more of the exclusion issues listed on the [School Exclusion Chart](#) apply to their child(ren). Upon completion of a health screening form in

Genesis, parents/guardians should keep their child(ren) home and contact their school nurse for instructions.

- **District Newsletter:** Click [here](#) to read the Fall 2021 issue of the District Newsletter.
- **Back-to-School Nights:** This year all [Back to School Nights](#) will be held virtually. Additional details and links will be provided by the schools closer to the event.
- **School Supply Lists:** Please click [here](#) to view a suggested list of supplies by school and grade level that will help to organize and prepare your student for the 2021-22 school year. High school teachers will provide students with a list of suggested items for their class during the first week of school. Individual teachers in the elementary and middle schools may also have a list of items specific to their class that they will share with students and families.
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a 2021-22 substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) for more information and click [here](#) to apply.
- **Virtual Preschool:** The child growth and development department and our WW-P high school students are excited to announce a free-of-charge virtual preschool for the 2021-22 school year. The program is open to children ages 3-5 who reside in WW-P. Students will have the opportunity to learn, interact, grow and develop age appropriate preschool skills virtually. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Around the District News**
 - HSS PTSA fundraisers available Districtwide
 - It's the HAPPY BIRTHDAY LAWN SIGN! Celebrate your birthday to help us celebrate the HSS graduating seniors. For more information and to reserve your date, please click [here](#).
 - Pop-Up Photo Session with Peter Hsu from Fotolux on Sept. 26, 2021. Bring your whole family (even Fido!) and you'll receive 6 digital photo files to use for holiday cards and portraits for \$75. For additional details and to sign up, click [here](#).
 - HSN PTSA fundraiser available districtwide supporting the Post Prom/Senior Celebrations Committee
 - Looking to support our celebrations for the HSN Class of 2022? Check out their Fall Mums sale! The price is \$8 each for a 9" mum. The order deadline is Sept. 19. Payment details are located on the

order form. If you have any questions, please [contact](#) us. Pickup will take place on Oct. 1. Click [here](#) to place your order.

Health and Safety

- A Health and Safety Update from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Sept. 17.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's School Exclusion Chart.

Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University**, in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, WW-P will facilitate a virtual Parent University Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. "**Reentry & Resilience: Continuing to Cope with COVID**" will assist parents in understanding the anxious feelings, worries, and fears students may be feeling as they return to school. Appropriate support strategies, guidance, and tips will be shared. Register in advance for this webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LpePGPi0RjK0FdpvovUBzQ

Community Education

- **One Day Wonders- Day Off Care:** One Day Wonders is a full-day program open to **ALL** registered WW-P students in grades K-8 on most days in which school is not in session, through Feb. 1, 2022. Students will participate in activities and enjoy special visitors while on-site at a specific school location. More information can be found [here](#). To register for One Day Wonders, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#).
- **Fall Afterschool Enrichment:** IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL after school enrichment program registration is now open for students in grades 1-12 and will close Sept. 28 or once capacity is reached. Registration is limited at each school or online. Check out the Fall guide [here](#). In-person enrichment programs begin the week of Oct. 4 as do most virtual enrichment programs. To register for fall after school enrichment programs, please set up your Community Pass account [here](#).

Food Services

- In conjunction with the federal government and the NJDOA, WW-P will be participating in a waiver that provides students access to nutritious meals at no cost.

- [Click here](#) for directions for creating an account with PaySchools Central and pre-ordering may be found below.
- Parents/guardians are reminded to pre-order via PaySchools Central if your student will be eating a lunch provided by WW-P Food Services.

Technology

- **Student Chromebook Issues:** If a student in grades k-8 has an issue with their Chromebook, they should report the problem to their homeroom teacher. All high school students who have an issue with their Chromebook should enter a tech ticket and drop off their Chromebook at the Media Center. Upon drop off, a replacement Chromebook will be provided.

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.

Community Events

- West Windsor is celebrating its 225th birthday in 2022. The Historical Society of West Windsor has many exciting events taking place throughout the year.
 - Take a [West Windsor Walking Tour](#) (ribbon cutting Oct. 10)
 - Enter the [225 Anniversary Logo Contest](#) (deadline: Sept. 30).
- Click [here](#) for more 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](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)