

Oct. 1, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- **PTA Virtual General Meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021** - Coffee with the Principals and our special guest, WW-P's Ms. Jessica D'Orazio, Board Certified Behavioral Analyst, who will discuss effective routines, strategies, and limit setting as we adjust to being back at school. [Click here](#) for Zoom link and details.
- **Spirit Wear Update:** The orders are being processed. It is taking a little bit longer due to the overwhelming demand. We appreciate your patience. We will announce the ETA in the newsletter as soon as we get it from the printer.
- **Coming Soon -- Creative Opportunities for Students:** The Dutch Neck PTA will be sponsoring a virtual pumpkin carving/decorating contest. Reflections, the program sponsored by the National PTA celebrating the arts, will also be starting soon. Please stay tuned for more details about both opportunities.
- **Dutch Neck PTA Treasurer Change:** The Dutch Neck PTA board would like to thank Venkata Penneti for serving on the board last year and the first month of this year as the treasurer. He did an amazing job and will be missed! We would like to welcome and congratulate Parul Garg as the new Dutch Neck PTA treasurer, replacing Venkata. Parul completed the audit for the PTA from the previous school year. She will be a great addition to the board!

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, held in McCaffreys Café (upstairs)** – More dates coming soon. 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 timing doesn't work with your schedule (once additional dates are announced), 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

Below are some important dates to place on your calendars:

- Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.: Virtual Parent University- Re-Entry and Resilience: Continuing to Cope with COVID. Register in advance for this webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LpePGPiORjK0FdpvovUBzQ
- Oct. 12, 13, 14 (evening) and 15: Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences: These are early dismissal days and dismissal is at 1 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: The parent-teacher conference is a great opportunity for you to connect with your child's teacher and learn more about your child as a learner. Teachers will be reaching out to schedule conferences via Zoom. Here are some things to think about or questions to consider before meeting with your child's teacher(s) to help make the most of your conference time:

- What successes can we build upon?
- What are your child's strengths and interests?
- What do we need and how best should we share to build a strong home-school connection?
- What does your child say about school? What do they express as their feelings about school?
- What is the best way to communicate with you?
- How can I help at home to support the growth in the classroom?

- Is there anything that is happening at home (significant events, etc.) that I would feel comfortable sharing as it might impact my child in school?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- As the caregiver, what are your biggest goals for your child's school year?

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.

--Mr. Argese & Mrs. Bruce

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 are 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.
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a 2021-22 substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) for more information and click [here](#) to apply.
- **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](#).

Health and Safety

- A **Health and Safety Update** from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Oct. 1.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

Athletics

- **Updated student health and safety protocols** for home football games will go into effect Oct. 1, 2021.

- WW-P North and South students must show their current student ID or be able to provide their ID number.
- Middle school and elementary school aged students must be accompanied by a supervising adult to enter the game. The supervising adult must remain with the student(s) for the duration of their attendance at the game.
- Students may not carry book bags/bags/etc. into the game.
- Students may not loiter in areas outside the fenced stadium or on school property.
- WW-P continues to recommend that spectators at outdoor events utilize facial coverings when not able to socially distance.
- WW-P sports fans are reminded that face coverings are required by all individuals (students, parents/guardians and visitors) while inside District facilities to attend an indoor event no matter their vaccination status.

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_LpePGPi0RjK0FdppvovUBzQ

Community Education

- **Extended Day Program - Dutch Neck and Millstone River Now Accepting Registrations:** Spaces are available at Dutch Neck, Maurice Hawk, Wicoff, Millstone River, Village, and GMS for afternoon EDP. As spaces are limited, registration is on a first come, first served basis. To check out EDP options, [click here](#). To register for EDP, set up or log into your Community Pass account [here](#).
- **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](#).
- **Middle and High School Virtual Enrichment:** Virtual enrichment classes are still open for students to register. Most classes begin at the end of October and are offered in the evening and some Saturdays. Check out the Fall guide [here](#). To register for fall middle and high school virtual 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.
- PaySchools Central is the new food service online system, [click here](#) for directions for creating an account.

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)
 - **Deadline extended** to submit an entry for the [225 Anniversary Logo Contest](#) (deadline: Oct. 20).
- The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office invites teens and caregivers to a virtual event Oct. 13 from 6-8 p.m. titled "[Better Safe Than Sorry: Advanced Cell Phone & Internet Safety for Teens.](#)"
- 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](#)