

Oct. 8, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

Oct. 12-15: Elementary school virtual parent/teacher conferences - Elementary school students will have an early dismissal on those dates. Half-day preschool is closed. Full-day preschool will dismiss with grades 1-5.

PTA

- **Virtual Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest:** Dutch Neck PTA is sponsoring a virtual pumpkin carving and decorating contest for students in all grade levels! Do you have the scariest, the cutest, or most creative pumpkin? [Click here](#) for more details about this fun new contest going on from Oct. 10-20.
- **Reflections Program:** All Dutch Neck school students are invited to participate in the 2021-2022 Reflections Program sponsored by the National PTA by submitting original art related to the 2021-2022 theme. This year the theme is "I Will Change the World by...". Students may submit artwork in any of the following categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Student winners from the local level have the opportunity to move up through their district, region, council and state PTA programs to the national level. National PTA Reflections winners are celebrated at the annual convention and student showcase. To learn more visit pta.org/reflections. All Dutch Neck students who participate will receive a certificate. The deadline for entries is Nov. 8, 2021 (please give your child's teacher the entry form along with the artwork in an envelope addressed to PTA Reflections). Please see the [flyer](#) and [student entry form](#) for more details. Contact us at reflections.dutchneck@gmail.com for any questions.
- **Membership:** 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. 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.

- **SEPTSA Meeting/Advance Questions (Oct. 28, 7 p.m., virtual)** – Join us for our next virtual meeting where Dr. Teresa Taylor will answer questions regarding how to determine when to modify your child's IEP during the school year. RSVP to the meeting and send your questions to: Veena at VeenaPai.0408@gmail.com.
- **WhatsApp group for WWP 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** (Oct. 24, 4-6 p.m., virtual): Join us for an informal virtual meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. Contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net or Veena Pai at veenapai.0408@gmail.com for the Zoom link and more information. (If you have a question or want to support discussions with other families, but this timing doesn't work with your schedule, contact Kathleen or Veena to find other times to talk or help.)

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

SCHOOL

Below are some important dates to place on your calendars:

- Oct. 12, 13, 14 (evening) and 15: Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences: These are [early dismissal days](#).

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 virtual parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed. Full-day preschool will dismiss with grades 1-5.
- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 14-15:** Students in grades 6-8 will have an [early dismissal](#) for virtual 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.
- **Board of Education Meetings:** Effective Oct. 19, 2021, Board of Education meetings will be held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings will also be live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#). Please [click here](#) for upcoming meeting dates.
- **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](#).
- HSN PTSA Post Prom/Senior Celebrations fundraiser available Districtwide:
 - Halloween Boos Fundraiser: Send our Ghost Yard Stakes with a goodie bag to your friends and family. Boo deliveries will start Oct. 15 and end Nov. 1. Book yours today!! We have several options for sale, and you can easily pay through our [Memberhub store](#). [Click here to order](#).

Health and Safety

- A **Health and Safety Update** from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Oct. 8.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

Athletics

- Effective Oct. 1: **Updated student health and safety protocols** for home football games
 - 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

- **The next Virtual Parent University, *Video Gaming - Impacts of Addiction***, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For most players, playing video games is a fun activity, a way to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy a challenge, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, for some players, a video game hobby can escalate into an addictive disorder which takes over their lives. *Video Gaming - Impacts of Addiction* will examine the impact of video gaming on children and adolescents. To login on Nov. 9, please use the

following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93332150507?pwd=eFB4aTY2RUxFTi9rM1JPWHlnMGFMZz09>

- To view past Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

Community Education

- **Extended Day Program:** Spaces are available at Dutch Neck, Maurice Hawk, Town Center, Wicoff, 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.
- Effective Oct. 1, parents/guardians no longer need to pre-order student lunches.
- 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.](#)"
- The **West Windsor Health Department** has several upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Please [click here](#) for dates and more information.
- **STARTALK**, a nationally recognized program of the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, is offering free virtual classes in Hindi and Urdu for students in 3rd-5th grade. Registration is open through Oct. 16. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register.
- 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.
- Effective Oct. 19, 2021, Board of Education meetings will be held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings will also be live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#).

Follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)