

Oct. 15, 2021

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

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. The deadline to enter has been extended to Tuesday, Oct. 26.
- **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.
- Click [here](#) to see the recording of Coffee with the Principals, and our special guest speaker: Ms. Jessica D'Orazio, on October 6, 2021.
- **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 and speakers! Membership is available 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 WW-P 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.
- **Lego Buddies, Oct. 23, 2-4 p.m., West Windsor Community Park Pavilion**
– Show us your wild imagination wearing your favorite Halloween costume and building impressive creations with Legos. Kids can enjoy light refreshments and giveaways. Intended ages: pre-K to 6th grade. To RSVP by Oct. 21, and for questions: Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net.
- **Office Hours** (Oct. 24, 4-6 p.m., virtual): Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To RSVP by 12pm 10/24 and for questions: Contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net or Veena Pai at veenapai.0408@gmail.com. (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 in similar situations, please feel free to contact Kathleen or Veena at any time.)

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

SCHOOL

Picture Day: Dutch Neck School Picture Days will be held next week Oct. 21 and 22. Your child's classroom teacher will be informing you which day the photos will be taken. The photographers from Photo Haven Photography will be here taking pictures of students and following all safety measures. Look out for an email blast later today which will contain specific package options and ordering information.

Halloween Parade/Fall Celebrations: We hope you and your family are doing well! With Halloween quickly approaching, we wanted to reach out regarding classroom celebrations. As always, safety is our top priority. Therefore, Halloween at Dutch Neck will look different this year. Instead of wearing costumes and participating in the school-wide Halloween Parade, celebrations will take place in the classrooms throughout with various fall-themed and/or Halloween activities. Your child's teacher will provide further information specific to his/her classroom plans. We are looking forward to a fun-filled day with your child on Friday, Oct. 29! Thank you for your understanding!

Kind Regards,
Mr. David Argese & Mrs. Laura Bruce

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- WW-P School are closed Nov. 4 and 5, 2021. Please [click here](#) for the 2021-22 school year calendar.
- **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](#).
 - Share the joy of Diwali with a **Diwali gift bag** for \$15. Each gift bag will include a package of diyas, a package of sparklers, and an

assortment of sweets. Place your order today using [this link](#) as quantities are limited!

- 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](#).
- The HSN vs. HSS [Serve Up Hope Volleyball games](#) will be held Thursday, Oct. 28 (Varsity: 7 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; Freshmen: 3:30 p.m.) at High School South. All proceeds benefit Good Sports Equip-a-Kid.

Health and Safety

- A **Health and Safety Update** from Dr. Aderhold will be sent Friday, Oct. 15.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

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, 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.
- 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](#)
 - **Deadline extended** to submit an entry for the [225 Anniversary Logo Contest](#) (deadline: Oct. 20).
- The **West Windsor Health Department** has several upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Please [click here](#) for dates and more information.
- **AAPSG** will present "Preparing Your Student for the College Application Season" webinar Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.
- **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](#)