

Jan. 7, 2022

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

Thursday, Jan. 13, and Friday, Jan. 14, are elementary school parent-teacher conference days. All WW-P elementary schools will follow the [half-day schedule](#) as was used this week and dismiss at 1:15 p.m. Maurice Hawk half-day preschool is closed Jan. 13 and 14.

PTA

- Happy New Year to all Dutch Neck Families! Thank you to all the families that supported our Panera Bread fundraiser in December.
- We hope you will consider making a donation here: <https://tinyurl.com/JWAC-DNSchool> to the Dutch Neck PTA as your contributions enable us to provide grants to our teachers, as well as organize activities for the kids. Please take a look at this [video](#) for more details.
- **Reflections Program:** The Dutch Neck PTA would like to thank our wonderful Reflections chairperson, Bharti Khemani, and our great volunteer Shweta Bhakuni for all of their efforts in helping the PTA manage the Reflections Program so successfully as some of the entries move on to the county level!
- **Dutch Neck Yearbook Update:**
 - Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we are canceling the yearbook cover contest. Thank you for the entries submitted. They will be included inside of the yearbook instead as part of a collaborative comic strip.
 - We need your help to make the yearbook special with lots of great photos of your children. [Click here](#) to upload your amazing creative photos (JPEG format only please, not Live) from things like the open house, the first day of school, spirit days, etc. Kindly name the image file as studentname_grade_teacherlastname.jpeg. Please contact yearbookdn@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!
- **Coffee with the Counselor: Jan. 26 from 10-11 a.m.:** Please save the date for an important virtual meeting with Dutch Neck guidance counselor, Mrs. Dunne about **"Anxiety related to handling behaviors at home."** This is not a PTA meeting, the PTA is only promoting this special meeting with Mrs. Dunne and introducing her. Mrs. Dunne will have a Q&A session for families following her presentation. Since we have noticed a lot of parents have had concerns about this matter, the PTA wanted to facilitate something to help.

Important Dutch Neck PTA Links:

- **Dutch Neck PTA Membership:** For details, [click here](#).
- **Donate and Make a Difference:** For details about JWAC (Just Write A Check), <https://tinyurl.com/JWAC-DNSchool>.
- **Amazon Smile Support:** Find instructions for AmazonSmile [here](#). Please choose 33727 Dutch Neck PTA when you shop at [smhttps://dutchneck.memberhub.com/store/items/89721ile.amazon.com](https://dutchneck.memberhub.com/store/items/89721ile.amazon.com).
- **Box Tops Support:** Download the Box Tops App, create your account and select Dutch Neck Elementary. Scan your receipt for quick, direct addition of Box Tops to your account or email your e-receipt to receipts@boxtops4education.com.
- **Visit Our Website:** <https://dutchneckpta.org/>
- **Visit Our Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/dutchneckpta>

SEPTSA

- **General Meeting, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. (virtual):** Join our PTSA meeting to receive updates on topical issues in our schools and region that impact students with special needs. Listen to our featured speaker, Alex Hilsen (partner at Sussan, Greenwald and Wesler), discuss the process and issues involved in guardianship and the overall context of adult transition for our special needs children. To **RSVP by Jan. 13 at 12 p.m. (noon)**, and for questions contact Veena at veenapai.0408@gmail.com.
- **Office Hours, Jan. 9 at 4 p.m., (virtual):** Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To **RSVP by 12 p.m. Jan. 9**, 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 time doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like support or to connect with other families dealing in similar situations, please contact Kathleen or Veena at any time.)
- **Lego Robotic Buddies, 1 hour session by arrangement (virtual):** Our student volunteers provide one to one sessions learning and playing with Lego WeDo robotics. Intended for special needs children of adult members or student members. To arrange a session and ask questions contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net.
- **SEPTSA Membership:** Our PTSA 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 for Special Ed Families** – Join us on WhatsApp to connect with other WW-P families of special education students. [Connect with WWP special ed parents.](#)

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

SCHOOL

As we see a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in our area and around the globe, we know that there are heightened levels of anxiety in ourselves and in our families. We want our families to know some of the ways in which we help support the social-emotional needs of our Dutch Neck Dexter Dragons, in addition to their academic needs.

Our school is modeled using the principles of *Responsive Classroom*. Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching. It is an approach that focuses on engaging academics, and a positive school community. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Responsive Classroom practices. Your child also participates in *morning meetings* to grow and strengthen their social connections with peers. In addition, our students participate in *mindfulness activities* with their classroom teachers, and *lessons* about stress, worry, expressing feeling and coping skills with our school counselor, Mrs. Nancy Dunne.

As you continue to navigate these times with your family, please know that we are here as a resource for you and your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your Principal Team (david.argese@wwprsd.org or laura.bruce@wwprsd.org) or our school counselor (nancy.dunne@wwprsd.org) if you or your child need support. The CDC has also published a thorough COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit that addresses how parents and families can talk with their children about COVID. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Important reminders about winter weather preparation: With the snow season starting, it is important to be prepared. Any winter weather announcements will be shared on the following:

- District website: ww-p.org
- Twitter: [Twitter.com/WWP_Schools](https://twitter.com/WWP_Schools)
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/WWP.Schools](https://facebook.com/WWP.Schools)

- Guardian email: the email listed in Genesis
- Text messaging service (If you are signed up): Learn how to sign up for emergency notifications via text [here](#).
- It is also important to prepare and have a plan with your child about what to do in the event of an emergency early dismissal. If the early dismissal is called during school hours in the morning, the student should know if their going home routine will change. Please discuss what their dismissal would look like so they feel confident in how to get home. (e.g., go on the bus, parent pickup, etc.). If there are any last minute changes due to the weather, please call the main office (609-716-5400) as soon as possible.

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Thursday, Jan. 13, and Friday, Jan. 14, are elementary school parent-teacher conference days:** All WW-P elementary schools will follow the [half-day schedule](#) as was used this week and dismiss at 1:15 p.m. Maurice Hawk half-day preschool is closed Jan. 13 and 14.
- **WW-P Schools Closed Monday, Jan. 17, 2022:** All WW-P schools will be closed Monday, Jan. 17, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Please click [here](#) for the 2021-22 school year calendar.
- **Updated WW-P Academic Calendar:** With the change of the previously scheduled PD Day from Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, to Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, all WW-P Schools and board offices will be open Feb. 21, 2022. 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.
- **Around the District News**
 - PTA/PTSA fundraisers available districtwide
 - HSS PTSA: 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, Jan. 7.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's **School Exclusion Chart**.

Counseling

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

Community Education

- **Winter After School Enrichment Registration Open for K-12th Grade Students:** Join Community Education for both in-person and online enrichment programs, beginning Jan. 24, 2022! Programs are again offered to elementary through high school students. Kindergarteners are now eligible to participate in select programs at each school. Check out the winter guide by clicking here: [2022 Winter Enrichment Guide](#).
- **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. Limited spaces are still available for Jan. 17, 2022. More information can be found [here](#). To register for One Day Wonders, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

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.
- Interested in a part-time job serving nutritious meals to our students? Please call Food Services at (609) 716-5000 x5938, or visit www.Sodexo.jobs and search "Plainsboro".

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.
- **Virtual Students with Chromebook Issues:** Students who are currently learning virtually due to a required quarantine/isolation and are experiencing a Chromebook issue, should contact their teacher who will enter a tech ticket on their behalf. The student will then be contacted by a member of the Technology Department to arrange to exchange their current device with a new one.

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

- The West Windsor Health Department has upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics scheduled through January 2022. Click [here](#) for more information.
- 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.
- Board of Education meetings are held in the multipurpose room at Central Office, 321 Village Road East, West Windsor, NJ. The meetings are also live streamed via the District's [YouTube channel](#).

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

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

