

Oct. 14, 2022

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

Upcoming Events:

- **Scholastics Book Fair:** The annual Fall Book Fair is here **Oct. 10-14!** The Book Fair is at Dutch Neck and open to students and teachers throughout the mornings. **Visit the Book Fair** at <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/dutchneckschool>
 - If you would like to volunteer for the Book Fair, sign up [here](#).
- **Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest:** Do you have the spookiest, the cutest, or most creative pumpkin? Dutch Neck PTA is sponsoring a virtual pumpkin carving and decorating contest for students in all grade levels! Lookout for the flier in your child's folder for more details. The Pumpkin Carving Contest will run from **Oct. 10-26.**
- **PTA Board Meeting (Virtual) - Oct. 17 at 9:30 a.m.:** Please join the Dutch Neck Elementary School PTA for our first General PTA meeting of the year! Coffee with the Principals and special guest, Dutch Neck School Counselor and Anti-Bullying Specialist -Nancy Dunne, who will talk on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB).
 - **Zoom Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82295083467?pwd=cWtwbkRES25CQ052N1pndzByWktGdz09>
 - Zoom ID: 822 9508 3467 Password: 603703
- **Reflections Program:** The Reflections Program will be held from **Oct. 17-Nov. 23** and is sponsored by the National PTA. This program is an opportunity to celebrate art education. Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.
 - Students participate in the appropriate division for their grade: Primary (Pre-K - grade 2), Intermediate (grades 3-5). Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

Important Dutch Neck PTA Links:

- **Dutch Neck PTA Merchandise: Shop for Dutch Neck Merchandise** at <http://dutchneck.memberhub.com/store>
- **Dutch Neck PTA Membership:** To become a member, [click here](#).
- **Donate and Make a Difference:** For details about JWAC (Just Write A Check), <https://tinyurl.com/JWAC-DNschool>. Thank you to all of our JWAC donors!!
- **Amazon Smile Support:** Find instructions for AmazonSmile [here](#). Please choose 33727 Dutch Neck PTA when you shop at smile.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

- **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 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. For clarification, registering with your child's school PTA/PTSA or having your child classified or "registered" with Special Services is not the same as registering for SEPTSA membership. There are volunteer opportunities for our members ranging from just one hour total to one hour per month. Go to www.wwp-septsa.org for more information about SEPTSA.
- **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](#)

SCHOOL

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** We hope that you enjoyed the dedicated time this week to meet with your child's teacher(s). Please remember that you can email your child's teacher(s) at any time to share information that you believe would be important for us to know. We value the partnership between home and school and look forward to ongoing collaboration and communication throughout the school year.

- **Dutch Neck School Picture Day:** Student picture day is Oct. 20, 2022, and quickly approaching. An email from Dutch Neck Elementary School as well as the company, bnl, was sent with specific information regarding picture day. You are able to pre-order packages and products as well as choose backgrounds online. The information is also contained in the [link here](#) for your reference.
- **Halloween Celebration:** We are excited to announce the return of our annual Halloween celebration which will be Monday, Oct. 31! Everyone is excited for our annual tradition of the Halloween parade and class party where we can see our friends in their costumes. Please see the information contained in the [Parent Halloween Letter](#) which shares details of the day so that our event can be safe and enjoyable for all.

Upcoming Dates:

- **Oct. 20** - Student Picture Day
 - **Oct. 24** - WW-P schools closed
 - **Oct. 31** - Halloween Celebration
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DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **WW-P Schools Closed Monday, Oct. 24, 2022:** All WW-P schools and district offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 24, 2022. Please [click here](#) for the 2022-23 school year calendar.
- **District Newsletter:** [Click here](#) to read the Fall 2022 issue of the District newsletter.
- **Student Handbook and Policy Update:** District policies are updated on an as needed basis. In September, Policy 5600 was updated. In response, student handbooks have also been updated accordingly. Policy 5600 may be viewed [here](#).
- **Early Dismissal Requests for Students:** Parents/guardians notifying school attendance office/school secretary of a student early dismissal can be done via TeleSafe, a note in the "Daily Attendance" tab in Genesis Parent Portal or by emailing/sending a note to your school's attendance secretary.
- **Staff Email Addresses:** Staff email addresses use the following pattern [firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org](#) (e.g., Jim Smith is [jim.smith@wwprsd.org](#)).
- **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.

- **Interested in receiving SMS text notifications from the District?:** 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. The cell phone must be listed in Genesis as a cell phone (not as a home phone number). Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).
- **WW-P Mobile Application:** The WW-P app is now available for download on both the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app store. Designed for the school community, it features convenient links and information all in one place. Download the app using the hyperlinks above or by searching "WW-P Schools" in the Google Play Store or App Store on Apple.
- **Masks:** WW-P schools and district offices are masking optional but masking is recommended. The District reserves the right to update/revoke masking protocols due to events such as outbreaks in classroom/ school/ building, growing cases in our community, etc. Masking is also optional but recommended on all passenger buses.
- **Reporting COVID positive or COVID symptomatic:** For the 2022-23 school year, parents/guardians should report their student's COVID positive absence or report their student as COVID symptomatic in Genesis or via Tel-safe and email their school nurse for further instructions. There is NO Health Screening Form in Genesis for the 2022-23 school year. There is no virtual instruction for COVID-related exclusions. Please view the 2022-23 COVID guidance [here](#).
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a 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 and help support HSS Student Celebrations! For more information and to reserve your date, click [here](#). Email Angela at Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org with any questions.
 - **W-P United Cheerleading will host a Youth Cheer Clinic** Oct. 29, 2022, from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. in the Auxiliary Gym at High School North for all athletes ages 4-13. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold will be sent every other Friday. The next update will be sent Oct. 14, 2022.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's School Exclusion Chart.
- Please note that for the safety of our school community, it is important that if your child is isolating or quarantining due to a COVID positive diagnosis, exposure or symptoms that they may not attend school or school events until their [quarantine/isolation period](#) has officially ended.

- WW-P, in conjunction with the West Windsor Health Department, will hold a **COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinic** Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 4-6 p.m. at the Board of Education district offices. Registration is required. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register. Adult and pediatric doses and boosters (including the bivalent booster) will be available at the clinic for those who are [eligible](#).

Athletics

- WW-P has updated ticketing procedures for United football and HSN and HSS basketball games and wrestling matches. All spectators must pre-purchase their tickets to the game through the Ticket Spicket Mobile Application or through the Ticket Spicket Website. Season passes are available as are tickets for individual games. Tickets for individual games are available for purchase one week prior.
 - [United Football Tickets](#)
 - [High School North Tickets](#)
 - [High School South Tickets](#)

Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University: School Refusal** - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, at 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - More information and registration link will be provided closer to the date.
- **Previous Virtual Parent University Events**
 - [Click here](#) for webinar materials and video of the **Parent University: ADHD** presentation that was held Oct. 6, 2022.
 - View material from all previous Parent University presentations [here](#).
- **Attention High School Seniors and Parent/Guardians:** Upcoming financial aid planning workshops and recordings/info from previous events
 - **Class of 2023 - Senior College Planning Nights:** Check out materials and recordings of the Sept. 12 (HSS) and Sept. 13 (HSN) events [here](#).
 - **College Financial Aid Virtual Workshops:** HESAA Virtual FAFSA Completion Workshops and NJ Alternative Financial Aid Workshops for NJDREAMERS will be offered throughout the fall and early winter. For upcoming dates and login links, please click [here](#).

Community Education

- **Program: How to Collaborate in Teams for 5th-8th Grade Students (October 24):** R2K Leadership is back with another great opportunity for students to learn the value of teamwork. Through interactive activities and powerful speakers, students will walk away with a new perspective on effectively working and sharing ideas with team members in a leadership setting.
 - Spaces are limited and registration closes Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 12 p.m.

- Please note there is no EDP for this program.
- To register for Oct. 24's How to Collaborate in Teams Program, please set up your Community Pass account here: [Community Pass Registration Link](#). Click on 2022-2023 Adult & Youth.
- To read the full description, check out page 9 in the Fall guide here: [2022 Fall Program Guide](#).
- **Adult Programs:** Community Education not only offers youth programs, but adult programs as well! Check out page 11 in the Fall guide here: [2022 Fall Program Guide](#).

Food Services

- Check out the **Sodexo menus** and newsletter by [clicking here](#).
- **PaySchools Central** is the food service online system, click [here](#) for directions for creating an account.
- The **application for free and reduced price school meals**, which also opens up other food benefits for families, is available for completion for the 2022-23 school year in your [PaySchools Central](#) account or may be downloaded from the [District website](#). Benefits for current recipients will expire Oct. 21, 2022. Families must submit a new application for the 2022-23 school year.
- The School Nutrition Association has created a video regarding school meal changes for the 2022-23 school year. The video can be viewed in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).
- Check out the Food Services Department's [Welcome Back Newsletter](#) for the 2022-23 school year. Additional information regarding Food Services can also be viewed [here](#).
- 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

- District issued Chromebooks for students in grades kindergarten through grade 3 are kept in the classroom.
- District issued Chromebooks for students in grades 4-12 are for students to use both in school and to take home.
 - Students should bring their fully charged Chromebooks to school with them each day.
 - Charging cords should remain at home.
 - Middle school families: The Chromebook cover from last year's device should be used on this year's device. If you do not have a cover from last year, please follow the process at your school to submit tech ticket so that we can provide a cover.

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.
- The WW-P mobile application is now available for download on both the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app store. Designed for the school community, the app features convenient links and information all in one place (e.g., events calendar, District notifications, news, and more). Download the app using the hyperlinks above or by searching "WW-P Schools" in the Google Play Store or App Store on Apple.

Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)

- WW-P SEPAG's mission is to facilitate communication between students, parents, staff, the Board of Education, and the community, about issues surrounding the district's special education programs and to advise the Board of Education and administration on matters about improving the quality of special education district-wide.
- WW-P SEPAG is a state-mandated group for parents, educators, and individuals concerned about children with special needs and/or learning difficulties in the WW-P School District.
- If you are interested in joining our mailing list, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/ujE5PRyK5khchL7j9>.

Community Events

- The West Windsor Health Department has **COVID-19 vaccine clinics** scheduled throughout the month of October. Details and registration information may be found [here](#). Information regarding second booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- West Windsor Recreation will host a free Trunk or Treat event Saturday, Oct. 29, from 2-4 p.m. in the Liquid Church Parking Lot (545 Meadow Rd.). For more information [click here](#). To register to decorate a "trunk" and hand out candy, please [click here](#).
- Click [here](#) for upcoming 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](#)