

April 21, 2023

## Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

### PTA

- **UPDATE: Trenton Thunder TICKETS NOW ON SALE on [Memberhub!](#)** Mark your calendars for the Trenton Thunder baseball game, with an opportunity to SING on the field! --- Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m.

### 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!!
- **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](mailto:receipts@boxtops4education.com).
- **Visit Our Website:** <https://dutchneckpta.org/>
- **Visit Our Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/dutchneckpta>

### SEPTSA

- **SEPTSA General Meeting (April 26 @ 7p.m., Virtual):** Join us for our spring meeting to honor Autism Acceptance Month and discuss activities supporting the socialization and skills development of our neuro-diverse students. We'll feature a brief talk by Jody Wood highlighting his improv and teaching program and how they may benefit students. We encourage students to attend this meeting as we'll include student members providing input and comments about activities they find meaningful and engaging. For more information and to RSVP to obtain the virtual meeting link, contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net). We request RSVPs by Tuesday, April 25.
- **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](http://www.wwp-septsa.org) for more information about SEPTSA and/or contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net) if you're interested in sharing your time and skills with 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](#)

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## SCHOOL

**STEAM Week:** Over the week, students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities around Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics. We were fortunate to have several outside presenters throughout the week who work in various fields in one or more aspects of STEAM. They facilitated sessions for our students, engaging them in fun and meaningful activities. In addition, we also had some middle and high school students come to Dutch Neck to present to our elementary students. Special thanks to Mrs. Marie Bresnahan, teacher resource specialist for curriculum and instruction, along with Mrs. Barbra Walling, math interventionist, for all the planning and work they put into organizing a wonderful week for our students.

**STEAM Night:** On Wednesday night, we welcomed families back for STEAM Night. Over 500 people attended! It was great to see children excited and engaged in activities with their parents throughout the night. Some of the activities included Binary Code, Flipgrid Animation, OSMO games, How Tall, How Long, Kahoot and many, many more. Special thanks to Mrs. Alyssa O'Connell, second grade teacher, and Mrs. Amanda Lee, media specialist, who planned, organized, and coordinated the event along with all of our teacher presenters who came back to facilitate a session for our students. And finally, a huge thank you to Tashawna Smith, our PTA president along with several PTA volunteers, who sold pizza and beverages in the cafeteria.

To view pictures of staff, families, and students at our amazing Steam Night Event, please visit our photo album [here](#)!

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## DISTRICT

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

## Reminders

- **Full-Day Kindergarten Beginning with the 2023-24 School Year:** Starting with the 2023-24 school year, WW-P will transition to a full-day kindergarten program for all District kindergarten students. For more information regarding this change, please [click here](#).
  - **Kindergarten registration** for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Parents/guardians must complete the online application for registration. For more information and to begin the process, please click [here](#).
  - WW-P is holding an **Open Kindergarten Registration** to assist incoming kindergarten families with the online registration process for the 2023-2024 school year. This in-person registration will be held Wednesday April 26, 2023, from 1-7 p.m. at the District Central Offices located at 321 Village Road East, West Windsor. Members of the school registration and technology staff will be available to assist families with the online registration process. A registration appointment is not required but we do ask that you please [RSVP HERE](#) if you plan to attend April 26. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **2023-2024 School Year Calendar Revised:** Please click [here](#) to view the revised 2023-2024 school year calendar that was approved at the March 28, 2023 Board of Education meeting. The calendar was originally approved Feb. 8, 2022.
- **April 27, 2023, is Take Your Child to Work Day:** Parents/guardians who wish to take their child(ren) to their workplace are reminded to enter their child's absence in Genesis for April 27 as "Take Your Child to Work Day" (this can be done prior to April 27). In addition, parents/guardians of elementary school students are asked to email their child's homeroom teacher. Students who are participating in Take Your Child to Work Day are responsible to complete any assignments/tests missed in school April 27.
- **Title 1 Information:** Title 1 is a federal program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The following WW-P schools receive Title 1 funding: Maurice Hawk Elementary School, Town Center Elementary School, Millstone River School, Village School, Wicoff Elementary School and High School South. Parent information about Title 1 in our schools can be found on our [District website](#).
- **High School Summer Math Courses:** Registration is now open for current WW-P 8th -11th grade students who have a passion for math and are interested in registering for WW-P's summer math course offerings. Classes include Intro to Discrete Math, Introduction to Data Science, and Discrete Math Topics. Each course is 2.5 credits, taught in-person by WW-P staff and counts toward the student's GPA. For more details on each course, prerequisites, registration and cost, please [click here](#).
- **Grade 6-12 Report Card Calendar (2022-23 school year) Update:** The [2022-23 school year report card calendar](#) for students in grades 6-12 has been

updated. Report cards will be live for students/parents/guardians Monday, April 24, 2023, after 3 p.m.

- **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](mailto:firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org) (e.g., Jim Smith is [jim.smith@wwprsd.org](mailto: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](#) 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](mailto:Hssbirthdaysign@southptsa.org) with any questions.
  - **HSN PTSA** fundraisers available districtwide. Support HSN Class of 2023 Senior Celebrations:

- **[Birthday cakes delivered to your home](#)**: Delicious Nothing Bundt Cake birthday cakes can be ordered throughout the school year with complimentary home delivery. Many packages are available.

## Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold will be sent monthly.
  - The next update will be sent April 28, 2023.
- Click [here](#) to review the District's COVID Guidance Chart. Click [here](#) for the District's Illness Exclusion Information.
- 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.

## Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University Events**
  - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

## Community Education

- **Summer Programs Are Here!**: Community Education will be hosting summer programs at Community Middle School beginning Monday, June 26 through Friday, August 11!
  - Half-day, full-day and extended day options available.
  - Programs are offered on a weekly basis only.
  - [Check out all of the offerings here!](#)
  - Camp Invention is offering an early registration discount! The discount coupon expires May 17, 2023. More information on Camp Invention and how to register can be found [here](#).
  - Classes fill fast, so register early! Vendors begin canceling under enrolled classes two to three weeks before the actual start.
- **Adult Programs**: Boating season is coming! Get your New Jersey State Boating Certification this April! Need help planning your retirement? Sign up for Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement!
  - More classes available for adult learners through Community Education! Check out the list on page 11 here: [2023 Spring Program Guide](#)
- **Registration Information**: Community Education uses Community Pass for all program registrations. Payment is due at the time of registration. [To access Community Pass, click here.](#)

## Food Services

- In celebration of Earth Day (April 22), Sodexo Food Services will feature **Local Food Day in our cafeterias Thursday, April 27**. At lunch, each of our school cafeterias will offer a pasta salad and fresh apples as a supplement to the lunch menu. The pasta, vegetables, and apples have all been sourced from local NJ farms and producers. The local NJ products are funded by the Local Food for Schools grant that was awarded to WW-P. For more info, please [click here](#).
- **Sodexo at WW-P is hiring**. Apply today! Now offering a \$200 sign-on bonus. Click [here](#) for more information.
- 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 and adding funds to the account.
  - Need to set limits and/or restrict food purchases for your student account? [Click here](#) for a "How to" guide.
- 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](#).

## 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**

- **Save the Date:** West Windsor Human Relations Council will host "**Tea and Conversation**" **Sunday, May 21, 2023**, from 2-4 p.m. at Grover Middle School
  - **Volunteers** are needed to serve a tea reflecting one's heritage to celebrate West Windsor's diverse community
  - **Performers** of all ages are also needed to share music, dance, and other talents at the open mic opportunity.
  - To volunteer or find out more, contact Jyotima Prasad, chairperson, at [jyotima@gmail.com](mailto:jyotima@gmail.com).
- **Rowan University Math Parent Workshops:** Six individual in-person sessions for parents of students in grades K-5. Attendees will explore how the math their children are learning is different from the way parents were taught. For more information, costs, registration, 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](#)