

May 5, 2023

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK is May 8 - May 12!** Thanks to your continuous support for PTA events this year, we are able to show staff and teachers our appreciation with the following schedule:
 - **Monday:** Barista services by Turtle Beans and breakfast by McDonalds
 - **Tuesday:** Lunch and beverages by Wawa
 - **Wednesday:** Candy and snack bar in the teacher's lounge
 - **Thursday:** Mr. Softee ice cream truck
 - **Friday:** Please show your teachers appreciation Friday, May 5. Families can use their "My Teacher's Favorites" list as a guide. Click on [this link](#) to find your teachers.
- Don't forget Special area teachers and Instructional Aides!
- **Special announcement to all our parents and PTA members:** Again, due to your unwavering support, we are proud to announce that this year's PTA Board will be redesigning the teachers lounge with a new fresh design, appliances, furniture, and paint!! Before and after pictures will be provided once the project is complete!
- **FIELD DAY FOR GRADE K:** TODAY! Friday, May 5!
- **FIELD DAY FOR GRADES 1-3:** Friday, May 12 (Rain date: Thursday, May 19)
 - Some slots may still be open to volunteer at this even:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA8A623A1F58-field>
 - Grades and assigned colors for Field Day are as follows:
 - First Grade – Red
 - Second Grade – Blue
 - Third Grade – White
- **MORE TRENTON THUNDER TICKETS: On sale now 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. \$20/ticket for a Dutch Neck student to sing at the beginning of the ballgame. The **DEADLINE to order SINGING TICKETS is FRIDAY, MAY 19!** \$12/ticket for all other attendees. <https://www.mlbdraftleague.com/trenton>. *Children ages 3 and under do not need a ticket if they are planning to sit on someone's lap.

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-DNschoo>. 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.
- **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 and/or contact Kathleen at 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](#)

SCHOOL

Summer Programming: As the summer season approaches, it's a great opportunity for your children to engage in summer programs and camps that will help them to develop important social skills. While the pandemic has caused disruptions to our daily lives, it's more important than ever to help our children to connect with others outside of their immediate families.

Participating in summer camps and programs offers children the chance to interact with peers in a safe and controlled environment. These experiences help children to learn how to communicate with others, make new friends, and develop the social skills that are essential for their future success.

We understand that it may be challenging to consider signing your children up for camps or summer programs, especially with lingering concerns about the pandemic. However, many camps and programs have implemented safety protocols to ensure that children can participate in activities in a safe and enjoyable way.

We strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your children in summer programs and camps this year. Not only will your children benefit from developing their social skills, but they will also have the opportunity to create lasting memories and experiences.

Some local offerings:

- [Community Education Summer Programs](#)
- [Spring/Summer Programs \(West Windsor\)](#)
- [Plainsboro Recreation Department Summer Programs](#)
- [Plainsboro Public Library Children's Programs](#)

Note from the WWPD and the crossing guard: If you are dropping students off or picking them up from school, please remember to demonstrate good street safety for your children! Always walk in the crosswalk and utilize the crossing guard at the beginning and end of the day. No one should be dropping off in the middle of the street, having students cross unattended, or walking where there is no crosswalk. Many thanks for your cooperation and dedication to the safety of our students.

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **WW-P Schools Closed Friday, May 26, and Monday, May 29, 2023:** Due to the unused emergency closing day, all WW-P schools will be closed Friday, May 26. Schools will also be closed Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day. Schools will reopen Tuesday, May 30, 2023. District board offices will be closed Monday, May 29.
 - To view the 2022-23 school year calendar, please click [here](#).
- **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](#).

- **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.
- **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](#).
- **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](#) 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.
- **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 May 19, 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.

- **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

- **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.
- The West Windsor Health Department and the Mercer County Health Department have **COVID-19 vaccine clinics** scheduled throughout the coming months. Details and registration information can be found [here](#). Information regarding booster eligibility can be found [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](#)