

Oct. 6, 2023

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

Oct. 10–13, 2023: WW-P elementary school parent/teacher conferences - WW-P elementary school students will have an early dismissal on those dates. Half-day preschool is closed. No lunches will be served.

PTA

General Information:

- **FUNDRAISER:** Do you love pizza? And cookies? How about other yummy baked goods? Head on over to [Shopfund.com](https://shopfund.com) and register to help raise funds for Dutch Neck! [Click here](#) for more details!
- **Pumpkin Carving Contest!:** Oct. 9-25: Pumpkin Carving Contest, three categories (cutest, scariest, most creative), all grades can enter, only one (1) submission per child. More to follow in the Dutch Neck Parents WhatsApp. Email dutchneckcontest@gmail.com for entries!
- **Reflections Entries:** Sept. 13 - Nov. 10: NJPTA's Reflections Program call for entries! Enter into six (6) different categories (dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and/or visual arts). Learn more and get involved! [PTA.org/Reflections](https://pta.org/reflections). More to follow in the Dutch Neck Parents WhatsApp. Email questions to follow Reflections.Dutchneck@gmail.com.
- **Small Business Expo:** The PTA believes in the power of small business and wants your business to thrive! Small businesses generate revenue and keep money circulating in the local economy. Local businesses also help keep taxes close to home and build stronger, better communities! The Small Business Expo will be held TODAY, Friday, Oct. 6, at the West Windsor Firehouse (next to Dutch Neck) from 5-7 p.m.! The Expo itself is free to all visitors!
- **Dinner with the Principals:** Back by popular demand! This year the Dinner with the Principals event will be held Thursday, Nov. 2, at Dutch Neck Elementary School. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased online at the [PTA Memberhub website](#). The first seating is for kindergarten and 1st graders from 5-6 p.m. The second seating is for 2nd and 3rd graders from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This is such a fun tradition at Dutch Neck! Parents and children are encouraged to dress up according to this year's theme, which is Disney and take photos with the principals after dinner. For example, you might dress your son in a suit and

crown and call him Prince Charming! Tickets are limited to 150 attendees per seating so hurry and get them while they last!

- Click [here](#) to meet and learn more about the Dutch Neck PTA Executive Board for the 2023-2024 school year.

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](#).
- **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

- **Dr. Recess** – On Wednesday, Oct. 4, we welcomed Dr. Curt Hinson, fondly known as Dr. Recess, to Dutch Neck. Dr. Hinson facilitated two assembly programs, one for grades k and 1 and the other for grades 2 and 3. At each assembly, Dr. Hinson taught students how to play several games during recess. He demonstrated and explained each game with several student volunteers

during each assembly. During our recess periods, Dr. Hanson spent time on the blacktop with students in each grade, helping and reminding them how to play the games. Our lunch aides attended the assembly as well so they will be able to assist students as they are playing these new recess games.

- **Week of Respect** – Thank you to our school counselors, Mrs. Obregon and Ms. Pareja, for planning activities and sharing resources during our Week of Respect. Students had fun participating in the daily challenge to be kind along with wearing different clothing to show their support of being respectful. [HERE](#) is a read aloud we shared with teachers to show to students this past week.
- **Read Alouds** – Mr. Argese and Mrs. Bruce visited third grade classes this week, reading the book The Eagle and the Wren by Alexander Reichstein. The book is a fable retold by Jane Goodall, focusing on collaboration and when you work together, you are able to accomplish so much more.
- **Fall Parent Teacher Conferences** for elementary school students will take place on **Oct. 10-13**
 - Elementary school fall conferences are by parent request, and every parent is entitled to a conference if they choose. These conferences are not mandatory
 - Registration through the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) will close at 12 p.m. on Oct. 8.
 - Appointments are available for parent selection on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Please note that **all parent-teacher conferences will, by default, be held in-person**, unless a **virtual conference** is selected when reserving an available appointment.
 - All families will have the opportunity to select a conference appointment to meet with their child's homeroom teacher. Appointments for special area teachers (World Language, Physical Education, Art, Music, and Computers) will not be available for selection through the portal. **Please contact those teachers directly to schedule an appointment.**
 - If your child receives special services through an IEP, please schedule your conferences directly with the appropriate special educator by emailing them at *firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org*. They will schedule your conference time and you will receive a confirmation in the Genesis Parent Portal.
 - Directions (w/ screenshots) to sign up for conferences can be found using this link [HERE](#)
 - Step-by-step directions to sign up for conferences can be found using this link [HERE](#)
 - If you are unable to schedule a conference with your child's teacher, please email them directly (firstname.lastname@wwprsd.org).

- Please note that all West Windsor Plainsboro Elementary Schools will follow a **half-day schedule Tuesday, Oct. 10 through Friday, Oct. 13**. There will be **no** lunches served on these days.
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DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 10-13:** Elementary school students will have an [early dismissal](#) for parent/teacher conferences. Half-day preschool is closed. No lunches will be served.
 - Registration for a conference via the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) closes Sunday, Oct. 8 at 12 p.m.
- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct. 25-27:** Students in grades 6-8 will have an [early dismissal](#) for parent/teacher conferences. An express lunch will be served at the middle schools only.
- **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 for the 2023-24 school year: Dutch Neck Elementary School, Maurice Hawk Elementary School, Town Center Elementary School, Wicoff Elementary School, Millstone River School, Village School and High School South. Parent information about Title 1 in our schools can be found on our [District website](#).
- **District Newsletter:** Click [here](#) to read the Back to School 2023 District newsletter.
- **Student Handbook and Policy/Regulation Updates:** District policies and regulations are updated on an as needed basis. The following policies and regulations have recently been updated: Policy 5600/ Regulation 5600 (Code of Conduct), Policy 5200/Regulation 5200 (Attendance) and Policy 5512/Regulation 5512 (HIB). In response, Student Handbooks have been updated accordingly. The recently updated policies and regulations can be accessed as follows:
 - [Policy 5200](#): Attendance
 - [Regulation 5200](#): Attendance
 - [Policy Updates \(2023\)](#): Policy/Regulation 5200
 - [Policy 5512](#): Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
 - [Regulation 5512](#): Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
 - [Policy Updates \(2023\)](#): Policy/Regulation 5512
 - [Policy 5600](#): Code of Conduct

- [Regulation 5600](#): Code of Conduct
- [Policy Updates \(2023\)](#): Policy/Regulation 5600
- **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.
- **Substitutes:** Are you interested in being a substitute at WW-P? Please click [here](#) to apply.
- **Around the District News**
 - **High School South is celebrating 50 years of Pirate Pride And Spirit!** WWPHS was established in 1973 and to celebrate 50 years of Pirate treasure, HSS will welcome home all their past Pirates from over the years. TONIGHT, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, from 5-7 p.m., High School South will host an open house for all those who attended or taught/worked at WWPHS South throughout the last 50 years! Former Pirates will have the opportunity to walk the old and new spaces of South. Following the open house, former Pirates are invited to stay and join us for our Homecoming game and festivities that evening out on the turf.
 - If you are a former Pirate and would like to attend the open house (and for those who were part of WWPHS during 1973 and would like to attend festivities on the track at 6:45) you must register in advance to attend by [clicking here](#).
 - **Mercer County Council of PTAs Announces National Reflections Program:** This 50+ year-old-program helps students explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas through the arts. Additional information

regarding the Program and the Reflections contact for each WW-P school PTA, can be found [here](#).

- Please note that the Village and GMS school contact information has been updated from the previous link.

Monthly Update from the Superintendent

- A [Monthly Update from Dr. Aderhold](#) will be sent the last Friday of each month.
 - The next Update will be sent Oct. 27, 2023.

Health and Safety

- Please note that for the safety of our school community, it is important that if your child is isolating due to a COVID positive diagnosis that they may not attend school or school events until their [quarantine/isolation period](#) has officially ended.
 - Please [click here](#) for the District's COVID guidance for the 2023-2024 school year.

Athletics

- WW-P will continue to utilize online ticket purchase procedures for United Football and HSN and HSS basketball games and wrestling matches for the 2023-2024 school year. All spectators must pre-purchase their tickets to the game through the TicketSpicket Mobile Application or through the TicketSpicket website. Season passes are available as are tickets for individual games.
 - [United Football Tickets](#)
 - [High School North Tickets](#)
 - [High School South Tickets](#)

Counseling

- **Virtual Parent University Events**
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).
- **Save the Date: WW-P College Fair** to be held at HSN Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, from 6-8 p.m.
 - Over 100 college admissions representatives will be in attendance. [Click here](#) for the current list of attendees.
 - Prior to the college fair, please register for a barcode at <http://www.StriveFair.com>.
 - Show your barcode to colleges who will scan and record your visit. This feature will also enable the colleges to connect with you after

the fair and send you more information about their schools. Please know that the scanned student information is **NOT** shared with third parties.

- **Senior College Planning Nights** for seniors and parents/guardians of seniors were held in September. Please [click here](#) to view the presentations.

Curriculum and Instruction

- New Jersey school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects are required by statute (N.J.S.A 18A: 7C-6.6) to annually notify parents/guardians of the scheduled standardized assessments that will be administered over the course of the school year.
 - Please [click here](#) for the state assessments schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.
 - Helpful resources for parents/guardians may be found at the [New Jersey Assessments Resource Center website](#).

Community Education

- **Extended Day Program (EDP) Care** (before and after school care) is available to WW-P students in grades kindergarten through 5 and after care to students in middle school through Community Education
 - Registration is available at each location until capacity limits have been reached.
 - Dutch Neck afternoon EDP program and Maurice Hawk morning and afternoon programs have reached capacity. To be added to the waitlist, please contact the Community Education office at 609-716-5030.
 - To register for EDP, please set up your Community Pass account [here](#).
 - For more information on EDP pricing and procedures, check out the [EDP General Information](#) form. Be sure to download the [parent handbook!](#)
- **Mini Explorers** is a Community Education program for four-year-olds. This program is open to students who reside in West Windsor and Plainsboro who turn four on or before Oct. 1 of this school year. Children must be fully potty trained to be eligible for this program.
 - The program will follow the West Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District school year calendar and will be held at Wicoff Elementary School from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Parents/guardians must provide their own transportation.
 - Students will follow a daily schedule designed and taught by WW-P Community Education staff members.
 - For the 2023-2024 school year, the monthly cost for this program is \$1,020.

- Registration is available through [Community Pass](#) and is on a first come, first serve basis.
- **Fall After School Enrichment** registration is open for students in grades 1 through 5 and programs begin the week of Oct. 16 at all elementary schools. Registration closes Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 12 p.m. or once the program has reached capacity.
 - Check out the fall program brochure [here!](#) Registration is open!
 - To register for fall after school enrichment programs, please set up your Community Pass account [here.](#)
- **Saturday Youth Programs** registration is currently open and will close Wednesday, Oct. 25. Classes begin Saturday, Oct. 28.
 - Check out page 8 in the fall program guide [here!](#)
- **Adult Programs** are also available. Check out page 10 in the fall program guide for more information [here!](#)
- **American Red Cross Lifeguard Training** is now registering participants. Students must be present for all hours of the course.
 - Pre-Requisite Skills: Candidates must be 15; be able to swim 300 meters; retrieve a brick from a depth of approximately 8 feet; tread water for 2 minutes without using arms.
 - There are two classes to choose from:
 - October: 1) Tuesday, Oct. 10 (3:30-8:30pm), Friday, Oct. 13 (3:30-8:30pm) and Saturday, Oct. 14 (9:00am-4:30pm)
 - November: 2) Thursday, Nov. 9 (8:00am-6:00pm) & Friday, Nov. 10 (8:00am-5:30pm)
 - Check out the Lifeguard Certification flyer [here!](#)
 - Register under the 2023 Fall Adult & Youth heading in [Community Pass.](#)

Food Services

- Check out the Sodexo menus and newsletter by [clicking here.](#)
- WW-P Food Services is excited to offer a breakfast program at the elementary school level.
 - Breakfast is available for order each week via a pre-order form sent to parents' emails on Monday morning. Orders must be placed by 5 p.m. Wednesday for the coming week.
 - Families should check their email for more information and the order form link.
- 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 2023-24 school year in your [PaySchools Central](#) account or may be downloaded from the [District website](#). Benefits for current recipients will expire Oct. 20, 2023. Families must submit a new application for the 2023-24 school year.
 - In addition, NJ recently expanded the income eligibility requirements. Even if families have not qualified in the past, your child may qualify for no-cost meals through the Working-Class Families Anti-Hunger Act by completing the Free and Reduced Lunch Application.
- WW-P Food Services will be celebrating National Farm to School Month in October. Check out local fruits and vegetables available in each school's cafeteria throughout the month.
 - This coming week, look for fresh, local cucumbers from K&J Farms in Elmer, NJ, as well as crimson crisp apples from Melick Orchards in Oldwick, NJ!
 - This month's celebration is made possible thanks to the NJDA and the Local Food for Schools Grant.

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.
- **Technology Help Desk Access** for students reporting Chromebook issues.
 - **Students in grades K-8** should report the technology issue to their teacher so that a ticket can be submitted on their behalf.
 - **Students in grades 9-12** should use the ticket kiosk in the media center to submit any technology issue. Students **MUST** include their wwprsd.org email in the ticket description in order for technology staff to contact them to repair the issue.

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.

Community Events

- **Teens' Working Papers:** Teens looking to obtain working papers may do so online. For more information, please visit: myworkingpapers.nj.gov.
- **Plainsboro Public Library Teen Advisory Board:** Students in grades 7-12 are invited to engage with the library by volunteering, promoting reading and participating in library events. Applications for the Teen Advisory Board are due by Sept. 20. Students chosen will be contacted via email by Sept. 30. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Information:** Please visit the [West Windsor Health Department](#) and the [Mercer County Health Department](#) for information as new vaccination/booster opportunities become available. Information regarding booster eligibility can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for more upcoming events and activities from community groups and organizations.
- **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Basics** is a six session education program for parents, caregivers, and other family who provide care for youth (ages 22 and younger) who are experiencing mental health symptoms. The program is available both in person and online. For more information about the program and to register, please [click here](#).

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.

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