

Oct. 13, 2023

## Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

### PTA

- **FUNDRAISER:** Do you love pizza? And cookies? How about other yummy baked goods? Head on over to 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](mailto: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](mailto:Reflections.Dutchneck@gmail.com).
- **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!
- **Spirit Day Pictures:** Have a picture of your child during Spirit Week that you want to share for the yearbook? Please email the picture of your child to [dutchneckadmnvp@gmail.com](mailto:dutchneckadmnvp@gmail.com) with your child's name and grade! A link will also be shared on the Friday of each Spirit Week via Whatsapp Dutch Neck Parents group to upload photos. Submission access will become restricted after one day.
- 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](mailto: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](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

- **Read Alouds:** Mr. Argese and Mrs. Bruce visited second grade classes this week, reading the book **A Fine, Fine School** by Sharon Creech. The book is about a principal who is very proud of all the learning taking place in his school so he proposes more school, including going to school on weekends, holidays and the summer. As you might imagine, the children were very upset with this idea when we proposed we should try it out here at Dutch Neck. They provided many persuasive reasons to convince us NOT to add more days to the calendar because if we did so, it would mean spending less time with family, not being able to participate in activities and sports outside of school and being too tired. Be sure to ask your second grader about the book!

- **Picture Day:** Next Thursday, Oct. 19, is picture day here at Dutch Neck. Photographers will be here all day taking both individual and class pictures. You will be receiving information directly from the photo company, bnl.
  - **Halloween:** Please read the following [Parent Letter](#) containing information about Halloween including our annual parade times.
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## DISTRICT

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

## Reminders

- **“Healing from Tragedy” Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, 7:30 p.m. in the High School North Theater (90 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro):** This adults only seminar is designed for parents, caregivers, staff and community members to provide support and resources following the recent tragic event in Plainsboro.
  - For more information, [click here](#).
  - To register to attend, please [click here](#). Walk-ins welcome.
- **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 North's Annual Family Halloween Concert:** Boo! High School North's annual concert will take place **Sunday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m. in the High School North Theater** (90 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro).
    - Featuring fun and spooky music HSN's band, orchestra, choirs, and a cappella groups annual event raises funds for the school's triennial music tour.
    - Kids (and everyone) are encouraged to come in costume, and will have a chance to parade during the concert and receive treats.
    - Tickets (available at the door or in advance through student performers) are \$10 general admission and \$5 for children, students, and senior citizens.
  - **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 and the recording from the Class of 2024 Senior College Planning Night.

## 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

- **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](#)!
- **NEW! 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.
  - Class dates are: Thursday, Nov. 9 (8 a.m. -6 p.m.) and Friday, Nov. 10 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)
  - Check out the Lifeguard Certification flier [here](#)!
  - Register under the 2023 Fall Adult & Youth heading in [Community Pass](#).
- **Employment Opportunities:** The Extended Day Program (EDP) is looking to fill open positions in the West Windsor schools.
  - Apply [online here](#) (in the search box, type EDP to filter).
  - Open positions include:
    - Full-time Site Supervisor (split shift, full-time, benefits)
    - Full-time Group Leader (split shift, full-time, benefits)
    - Morning EDP Group Leader (7-8:45 a.m.)
    - Afternoon EDP Group Leaders and Assistant Group Leaders (3-6/6:30 p.m.)

## 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 green bell peppers from Landisville Produce in Landisville, NJ, a limited amount of Jimmy Nardello peppers from Blue Moon Acres in Pennington, NJ, and Asian pears from Evergreen Orchard in Hamilton, NJ.
  - This month's celebration is made possible thanks to the NJDA and the Local Food for Schools Grant.

## Special Services

- **SSI and Medicaid Parent Training Program** will be held **Monday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. at Community Middle School** (95 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro). This presentation is geared toward Autism/MD families with children ages middle school through post-grad. The presentation will provide the basics on understanding SSI and Medicaid as families plan for adult services. Dinner will be provided and inclusive sports in the gym for students during the presentation for parents/guardians. Please [click here](#) for more information and to RSVP. Please RSVP by Nov. 10.

## 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](http://myworkingpapers.nj.gov).
- **The African American Parent Support Group of West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District (AAPSG)** will hold its first meeting of the school year Oct. 26, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the High School South media center. Topics include “How to Empower Your Children to Succeed” and “Show Me the Money: Learn about College Scholarships”. Please [click here](#) for more information.
- **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](#).
- **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](#).

- **HomeFront Halloween 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk PLUS Preschooler Pumpkin Dash:** Oct. 29, 2023, at Carnegie Center, Princeton. [Click here](#) for more information and registration details.
- Click [here](#) for more 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.**

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