

Oct. 27, 2023

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- **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.
- **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 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.

- **Visit Our Website:** <https://dutchneckpta.org/>
- **Visit Our Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/dutchneckpta>

Special Education PTSA (SEPTSA)

- **Office Hours Gathering (Sunday, Oct. 29, from 4-5 p.m., McCaffrey's Cafe):** Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. To RSVP by 6 p.m., Oct. 28 and for questions: contact Kathleen Moriarty at kkz4@verizon.net. If you have a question or the timing doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like support or to connect with other families dealing in similar situations, please feel free to contact Kathleen.
- **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

- **Sock-tober Success!** The students at Dutch Neck participated in their first Kids Helping Kids challenge by participating in Socktober. Led by Mrs. Rogala and Mrs. Signore's classes, Dutch Neck students collected 1,115 pairs of socks over the past two weeks to be donated to HomeFront. Sockey Hockey continues to support any and all initiatives that support others. Sockey Hockey proudly donated Sockey Hockey shirts to the students in Mrs. Rogala and Mrs. Signore's classes as a sign of gratitude, as well as donating hockey equipment to the children of HomeFront. Thank you to our Dutch Neck families for your support and donations to this wonderful cause.

- **Read Alouds:** Mr. Argese and Mrs. Bruce visited Kindergarten classes this week, reading the book, **Mother Bruce** by Ryan T. Higgins. This humorous book is about a bear named Bruce who loves to create recipes for eggs but got an unwelcome surprise when he was preparing one of his dishes - the eggs hatched into goslings! Suddenly, he became the victim of mistaken identity as the baby goslings began calling him "mama" and followed him everywhere. The story is ultimately about finding friendship and family in the most unlikely of ways. Be sure to ask your Kindergartener about the book!
 - **Nurse's office donation request:** If families have medium/large pants (Sizes 8-14) for either boys or girls that your kids are growing out of, please consider donating them to the nurse's office. They can be brought in and labeled for the nurse so there can be an extra supply for our school year.
 - **Respect!** Our students in Ms. Young's, Mrs. A. O'Connell's, and Mrs. Rogala's class presented to their grade level peers all about respect this month! The students did a wonderful job reminding their peers of the ways we show respect to ourselves, others, and our environment. Read alouds, scenarios, and student examples were all used to share this important lesson.
 - **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

- **WW-P Schools are closed Thursday, Nov. 9, and Friday, Nov. 10, 2023:** Please [click here](#) for the 2023-2024 school year calendar.
- **WW-P celebrates American Education Week Nov. 13-17:** American Education Week promotes collaboration between parents/guardians/caregivers and educators/staff members. Elementary and middle school families will be receiving information from their teacher and/or school regarding the opportunity to get a glimpse into their child's typical school day.
- **HSN and HSS Preschool Registration: WW-P's Child Growth and Development Department** at High School North and High School South is excited to announce spaces are available for this school year's in-person **PirateCare and KnightCare Preschools for children ages 3-5 years old.**
 - The program is run by high school students under the leadership and supervision of a WW-P teacher.

- For more information, please [click here](#). **The deadline to complete the interest form is Oct. 27, 2023.**
- **WW-P Plans for Future Growth:** [Click here](#) for more information on the District's purchase of local farmland on the West Windsor and Plainsboro border.
- **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.
 - **The HSN/HSS Prom Shop** will be accepting donations from Nov. 13-17, 2023, during school hours (7:40 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.) in the High School North (90 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro) security corridor. There will be wardrobe racks where donations can be left.
 - Items being accepted: Dresses, suits (in sizes appropriate for 16-18 year olds), slightly used shoes (men’s and women’s), ties, jewelry, purses, reusable shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, hangers.
 - Please make sure each donation is washed/dry cleaned and in great condition.
 - The Prom Shop will be held Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of Central Offices (321 Village Rd. East, West Windsor). Snow date is Jan. 27, 2024.
 - Junior and senior WW-P students will need to bring their student ID to shop. Each student may take one full outfit. All items are first come, first serve.
 - Questions: Please contact Tracy Zarodnansky at tracy.zarodnansky@wwprsd.org.
 - **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

- **Parent University Events**
 - **"Healing from Tragedy"**: Please [click here](#) to review the recording of and materials from the Oct. 18, 2023, George Scott, Ed.S. (Traumatic Loss Coalition) presentation **"Healing from Tragedy"**.
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).
- **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

- **Adult Programs** are 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 2022-2023 school year recipients expired 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.
- **Sodexo Food Services Want to Hear from You:** Parents/guardians and middle/high school students are invited to take a few minutes to provide feedback about school meals using the link that follows. The short Sodexo Food Services survey closes Nov. 17, 2023. Sodexo thanks you in advance for your participation
 - Survey Link: <https://imo.cx/UJwVVITr>

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.
- **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](#)