

Nov. 17, 2023

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

All WW-P schools will have an early dismissal Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023. Half-day preschool at Maurice Hawk is closed. All WW-P schools and board offices are closed Nov. 23 and 24, 2023, for Thanksgiving Recess. There will be no newsletters sent Nov. 24. Newsletters will resume Dec. 1.

PTA

General Information:

- Dexter's Emporium (Holiday Shop): On Saturday, Dec. 2, join us at Dutch Neck Elementary School for a fun-filled holiday shopping experience for the whole family! A wide range of items will be for sale. Item prices will range from \$1 to \$13. Enjoy the festive occasion topped off with warm hot chocolate, cider and treats!
- **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)

- **SEPTSA Meeting** (Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m., 72 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro): Join SEPTSA for an in-person tour of WW-P's new adult transition space and learn

about related adult transition services provided by Special Services. For information and to RSVP, contact Kathleen at kkz4@verizon.net by Dec. 4, 2023.

- **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

- **American Education Week:** It was great to see so many parents and caregivers here at Dutch Neck this past week! We hope you enjoyed the visit to your child's classroom and you were able to get a sense of the community built as you observed and/or participated in a lesson and activity with your child.
- **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.
- **Connecting to Your Children's Academics:** Please see the information below which includes ways for you to support your children through their current reading, writing and math units at home. Please take some time to read the documents and learn some tips, as well as have some of your questions answered about what your children are learning. This is a great way to enhance our school-home connection.
 - **Reading/Writing Caregiver Letters (Oct/Nov.)**
 - [Kindergarten Reading/Writing Oct/Nov.](#)
 - [First Grade Reading/Writing Oct./Nov.](#)
 - [Second/Third Grade Reading/Writing Oct./Nov.](#)

- **Bridges Family Overviews Unit 3**
 - [Kindergarten Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
 - [First Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
 - [Second Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)
 - [Third Grade Bridges Family Overview Unit 3](#)

Dear Families,

November is the month of sharing gratitude. People share countdowns on Facebook, families declare them at the table (and hope no one brings up politics), children count their blessings on turkey feathers... We want to take a moment to extend our gratitude to you, the parents and caregivers of our students. We are fortunate to work in a community where education is valued and celebrated, where parents and caregivers work together with our teachers in order to make the school experience the best it can be for our students. We should never underestimate the impact we have on the lives of children through our words and actions.

Often sentences are started with 'We have to...' "We have to make dinner." "We have to get the kids to soccer." "We have to go to work." During this season of thanks, may we be mindful of our blessings and all of the great things we **get to** do. We get to make dinner and enjoy it with friends and family. We get to go to soccer and see our children play. As educators, we get to go to school and share our days with our wonderful students and equally amazing colleagues. We are truly blessed to work with such caring, dedicated teachers and staff who care deeply about the social/emotional well-being and academic success of each child.

We want you to know that we are grateful for your support and partnership not just in November, but throughout the year. Warmest wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Kind Regards,
Mr. Argese & Mrs. Bruce

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Thanksgiving Recess:** All WW-P schools will have an [early dismissal](#) **Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023**. Half-day preschool at Maurice Hawk Elementary School is closed. No food service will be provided Nov. 22. **All WW-P schools**

and board offices are closed Nov. 23 and 24, 2023. Please [click here](#) for the 2023-2024 school year calendar.

- Effective Nov. 6, 2023, after 3 p.m., all WW-P parents/guardians will be prompted to complete a **new form in Genesis Parent Portal** acknowledging updates from Google Workspace for Education.
 - Families with multiple children must submit a form for each child.
 - Parent/guardian access to Genesis will be limited until the new form is acknowledged for their child(ren).
- **Report Cards for Students in Grades 9-12:** Marking period 1 report cards for students in grades 9-12 will be posted to the Genesis Parent Portal Monday, Nov. 27, at 3 p.m. If you do not have a Genesis account or cannot remember your password, please email wwpsis@wwprsd.org.
- **Deadline Extended for 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 still 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 has been extended and is Nov. 30, 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](#).
- **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**
 - **WW-P Fall Theater**
 - **HSN Fall Drama "A Midsummer Night's Dream":** Shows are at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 and 18, 2023, at High School North.
 - Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 online at [wwpnorththeater.org](#).
 - **HSS Fall Drama "Romeo and Juliet":** Shows are 7 p.m. on Nov. 17 and 18, 2023, at High School South
 - Tickets are \$12 at the door.
 - **CMS Fall Play "James and the Giant Peach":** Shows are 7 p.m. on Nov. 29 and 30, 2023 at CMS.
 - Tickets are \$5 (cash only) at the door.
 - **The HSN/HSS 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 Nov. 17, 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](#)!
- **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) for those who are registered to attend. 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.

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.
- The **Mercer County Library** is offering **free, virtual, adult ESL conversation groups**. The group will meet virtually Nov. 21, and 28 at 10 a.m. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Study Buddy Program at West Windsor Library:** The Study Buddy Tutoring Program at the West Windsor Branch has returned! This program pairs teen volunteers with students seeking tutoring, and it's entirely free. It operates throughout the school year, with Study Buddies meeting for 30-45 minutes once a week at the library, supervised by our youth department staff.
 - To apply, students can pick up a Study Buddy application at the West Windsor Library's youth desk. The library matches students with teen tutors upon application submission, and enrollment is ongoing.
 - Please [click here](#) for more info.
- **West Windsor Little League:** Spring 2024 registration is open for baseball, softball and t-ball for children ages 4-12 from West Windsor, Plainsboro and Cranbury. Workout and practices begin in early March and run through June 14. [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](#).

- 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](#)