

Dec. 15, 2023

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

PTA

- **Yearbook Cover Contest:** We are bringing the Yearbook Cover Contest back! This year's yearbook theme is "Around the World in Dutch Neck Days." Please get creative! Requirements and guidelines are listed on the flier distributed to students! The deadline to submit an entry is Jan. 8, 2024! Entries must be submitted in a large manila envelope/folder to your child's teacher with "For Dutch Neck PTA" written on it. Please do not bend! If you have any questions, please reach out to Miko Weaver at dutchneckadmnp@gmail.com.
- **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 dutchneckadmnp@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 Creative Communication Class (Saturdays at 12:30 p.m., Jan. 20–March 16, Plainsboro Rec Ctr):** SEPTSA is hosting an improvisation style workshop of eight (8) sessions for 1.5 hours beginning in January. This program is intended for middle and high school students experiencing social and emotional challenges that may benefit from increasing their communication skills in a fun and interactive environment with other students. Jody Wood, an actor/director, is the facilitator for this program. There are limited spots and

there is a fee to participate. The following link provides more information about this dynamic and impactful program.

- Information Link: [JW Actor's Studio](#)
- Contact Kathleen (kkz4@verizon.net) to learn more about this program and to register.
- **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

Dear Dutch Neck Families,

As we are approaching the end of the calendar year leading into winter recess, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for all of your continued support in working in collaboration with us to support our students and help them to realize their potential. "May we never stop believing in the possibilities of a masterful teacher and an inspired student, each with the power to make a difference in the world."

We believe the true spirit of the season can best be captured by one of the most famous editorials ever written. It is the answer to a letter written by Virginia O'Hanlon that appeared in the New York Sun in 1897. While the editorial answers a child's question about the existence of Santa Claus, it is non-denominational in its response. The editorial focuses on turning your back on skepticism and believing in love, generosity, and devotion. Ultimately, the editorial asks us for a willingness to believe in the unseen, the potential, or the possibilities for greatness in every person. We cannot think of a better message to share during this time of year. A copy of the editorial is included [HERE](#).

As you celebrate your family traditions, may your heart be filled with joy, your mind with peace, and your days with laughter! We wish you and your children a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year. Keep believing in possibilities.

Warmly,
Mr. Argese & Mrs. Bruce

Reminders:

- **Winter Choral Concerts:** Our third grade students performed their winter concert under the direction of Mr. Anthony Kovatch for the students and staff Tuesday, Dec. 12. Each choral group also performed a concert for their families on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Students in chorus meet once a week with Mr. Kovatch to learn and practice the songs. It was so wonderful to see our third graders perform their first concert as they did such a great job singing for us. Bravo!
 - **Cold Temperatures:** We will do our BEST to have students go outside on the playground during their recess time even during the winter months depending on temperature and wind chill. In order for this to happen, students must dress appropriately and be ready for the cold temperatures. Please send your children with winter coats/jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. There are so many benefits to fresh air, which include (*St. Mary's Health System Newsletter 2022*, Lindsay Grossman):
 - Fresh air is good for your digestive system.
 - Fresh air helps improve blood pressure and heart rate.
 - Fresh air boosts your mood and makes you happier.
 - Fresh air strengthens your immune system.
 - Fresh air cleans your lungs.
 - Fresh air gives you more energy and a sharper mind.
 - **Genesis Phone Numbers:** Please be sure to remember to update phone numbers and contact information in Genesis. Please include any and all phone numbers (home, cell, work) and label them appropriately so that the school can reach you to share important information about your child. This way the nurse, teacher, or front office staff member can connect with you and let you know of any important information.
 - **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.
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DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Winter Recess:** All WW-P schools will have an [early dismissal](#) **Friday, Dec. 22, 2023**. Half-day preschool at Maurice Hawk Elementary School is closed. No food service will be provided Dec. 22. **All WW-P schools and board offices are closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 1, 2024.** Schools and district offices will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. 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 PreK-8:** Trimester 1 report cards for students in grades PreK-8 will be posted to the Genesis Parent Portal Friday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. If you do not have a Genesis account or cannot remember your password, please email wwpsis@wwprsd.org.
- **Free Adult, English Language Classes:** West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District offers free English language classes for adults. For more information and to register, please [click here](#). The deadline to register is Jan. 5, 2024.
 - Classes will begin on or after Jan. 15 and are available to all adult residents of West Windsor and Plainsboro townships. Attendees must be 18 years of age.
 - WW-P will offer three (3) levels of classes.
 - Classes will take place during the evening on weekdays. Classes will be online. However, depending on student preference and teacher availability, some classes may be in-person.
- **Deadline Extended for HSN and HSS Preschool Registration:** Spaces are still available in WW-P's Child Growth and Development Department at High School North and High School South 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 and to submit an interest form, please [click here](#). The deadline to complete the interest form is Jan. 30, 2024.

- **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**
 - **High School South Student Council** will hold a **Winter Wonderland** for students in **Kindergarten through grade 3 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 15, 2023**, at High School South (346 Clarksville Rd., West Windsor). There will be movies, holiday treats, crafts and more. Admission is free but please bring money for the treats. Parents/guardians must attend the event with their student. Click [here](#) for info.
 - **High School South Saxophone Ensemble:** The HSS Saxophone Ensemble will be performing holiday music at the **Quakerbridge Mall atrium Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023**. The first set will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the second set will begin at 6:20 p.m. Please come out and enjoy the public performance.
 - **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.

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 Dec. 22, 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

- **EDP Registration and Schedule Changes Close Thursday, Dec. 21.**
 - EDP registration will be closed during Winter Break. Anyone wishing to register for EDP for a Jan. 2 or Jan. 3 start date must do so by Thursday, Dec. 21.
- **Winter After School Enrichment Registration is Open!**: Winter after school enrichment program registration is underway! New, exciting programs are being offered to Kindergarten through 5th grade students!
 - Program vendors require Community Education to meet a minimum enrollment in order to run, so do not delay in signing up!
 - Spaces are limited and classes begin to fill fast.
 - Check out the program offerings here: [2024 Winter Program Guide](#)
 - Register through Community Pass [here](#). Click on 2024 Winter After School Enrichment.

- **[CSI: Mock Crime Scene Investigation \(STEM Class\)](#)**: Join former detectives and your peers to take a deeper dive into the world of crime scene investigations! This one-day program will have collecting, analyzing and classifying fingerprints, creating and examining blood spatter patterns, casting footprints, solving a mock crime scene and so much more!
 - Students in grades 5-12 are welcome to register for this one day program.
 - Program will be held Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at High School North. EDP is not available before or after this program.
 - Register on [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:
 - 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.

Special Services

- **Guardianship Virtual Workshop: Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 from 6-7 p.m.:** In partnership with the West Windsor-Plainsboro Educational Association, the West Windsor-Plainsboro Special Services Department's FAST (Families and Schools Together) grant team will host a virtual information session about the process for guardianship for students with disabilities.
 - This presentation would be most appropriate for families who have students in Multiple Disabilities (MD) and Autism special education programs (Kindergarten through Post Grad). All are welcome to attend.
 - [Click here](#) for more information, RSVP form and Zoom link.
 - [RSVP by Jan. 24, 2024](#)

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.
- **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.
- **West Windsor Lions Club** will hold their annual **"Pancake Breakfast with Santa"** event Dec. 17 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **MLK Day of Service 2024: West Windsor Arts in partnership with WW-P AAPSG** will hold the annual MLK Day of Service Jan. 15, 2024. They are currently seeking specific donations for local agencies in need and volunteers. For more information, please [click here](#).
- **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](#).
- **More!:** 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](#)

