

Jan. 26, 2024

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

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

- **Persistence:** Last week our students in Mrs. Signore's, Mrs. Hess', and Ms. Wright's classes created and presented to their grade level peers all about persistence! They gave us the definition, shared stories, took suggestions, created scenarios, provided great ways for students to relate and apply the idea

of persistence to their home and school life! Please [click here](#) to enjoy the pictures!

- If you would like to explore this mindset more with your child, here are some more read alouds about Persistence:
 - The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
 - The Dot by Peter Reynolds
 - Rosie Revere, Engineer by Beaty and Roy
 - I Won't Give Up by Kenney and Roy
- **Global School Play Day - Feb. 7:** Dutch Neck Elementary School will celebrate Global School Play Day Feb. 7.
 - **What:** Global School Play Day is celebrated in schools around the world to give children an opportunity to experience a day of free, unguided play.
 - **Why:** The Academy of Pediatrics reports that *unstructured* play time allows for peer interactions and is an important component of social-emotional learning to foster [soft skills](#). Please check out [THIS](#) TedTalk for supporting research.
 - We are inviting all of our students to bring in a toy to play with (and share with friends).
 - **Here are some ideas:** puppets, doll/action figures, board games, puzzles, blocks/legos, cars/trucks, stuffed animals, non-violent toys, cards/uno.
 - **No:** electronic devices, Pokemon or trading cards, weapons or items of significant value
 - *All toys should:*
 - fit in your child's backpack (or in a bag they can carry themselves)
 - not have many removable parts that can be lost (except board games)
 - be non-fragile
 - not have batteries or any electronic devices
 - be marked with your child's name
 - ALL TOYS WILL BE YOUR CHILD'S RESPONSIBILITY
 - **Please contact your child's teacher with any questions.**
 - We are looking forward to a fantastic day!
- **High School South Black History Month Family Night:** High School South's Black Student Union in association with the WWPEA and WWPAAPSG will host a Black History Month Family Night event Friday, Feb. 9, from 6-8 p.m. at High School South. Dutch Neck and Maurice Hawk Elementary School families are invited to attend. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register. Registration is limited.

Reminders:

- **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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Feb. 7** - Global School Play Day

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences - Monday, Feb. 5, and Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024:** 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.
- **WW-P Schools closed Friday, Feb. 16, and Monday, Feb. 19:** All WW-P schools will be closed for students on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, for staff professional development. All WW-P schools are closed Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.

- **UPDATE - Revised 2023-2024 school year calendar:** With the use of our first and second emergency closing days (Jan. 16, 2024, and Jan. 19, 2024) all WW-P schools and board offices will be open April 24, 2024, and April 1, 2024.
 - Based on the Jan. 16 and Jan. 19 closures the [school year calendar](#), [half-day preschool calendar](#) and report card calendars for [PK-8](#) and grades [9-12](#) have been updated.
- **Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open:** Parents/guardians must complete the online application for registration. For more information and to begin the process, please click [here](#).
 - Interested in the **Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program** for your 2024-2025 school year kindergarten student? The DLI program is holding an **in-person interest meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.** at the Board offices (321 Village Rd. East, West Windsor). For more info and to register to attend the meeting, please [click here](#).
- **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:**
 - **Thank you to those K-3 families who attended the Jan. 11 Joint PTA Meeting for K-3 Elementary Schools.** The topic for the evening was "Elementary ELA & Math Curriculum and Instruction."
 - A recording of the evening is available to view [here](#).
 - To review the evening's presentation, please click [here](#).

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 Jan. 26, 2024.

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

- **TicketSpicket:** 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:**
 - **Upcoming Virtual Events:** Save the dates.
 - **Tuesday, Feb. 13,** 7-8 p.m.: The topic will be "Benefits of Youth Sports". For more information, please [click here](#).
 - Zoom Link to attend: <https://zoom.us/j/96318310861>
 - **Monday, Feb. 26,** 7-8 p.m.: The topic will be "Anxiety and Teens". Additional information and a link will be provided closer to the date.
 - **Monday, April 15,** 7-8 p.m.: The topic will be "Handling Emotional Dysregulation". Additional information and a link will be provided closer to the date.
 - To view materials from previous Parent University presentations, please click [here](#).

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

- **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.

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 (WWLL):** 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.

- WWLL is also looking for **students aged 13+ to be umpire trained** for the upcoming spring season. Umpire training is a four week course meeting on Tuesdays, starting Jan. 30. WWLL will pay the cost of the \$50 course for the FIRST 5 NEW UMPIRES from West Windsor, Plainsboro, or Cranbury to sign up this year! Please email baseball@wwll.org to let them know if you are signing up, so that they can pay for your registration. See the [District 12 Umpire Website](#) for more information, including the registration form, schedule and what is included in the course.
- **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](#)