

March 1, 2024

## Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

### PTA

- **Pizza with the Principals Contest: GET YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIPS!!**
  - New PTA memberships will enter your child into a drawing to win a chance to have pizza (from a local pizzeria) and play games with the principals in their office! Three lucky students will be randomly chosen for this event on April 2.
  - The date will be decided by the principals.
- **Spirit Day is Friday, March 8!** In honor of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day, let's EXERCISE self care by wearing workout clothes!
- **Spirit Day Pictures:** Have a picture of your child during the March 8 Spirit Day that you would like to share for the yearbook? Please email the picture of your child to [submit+1688255@edophotos.com](mailto:submit+1688255@edophotos.com) with your child's name and grade in the subject line.

### Upcoming Events:

- **PTA General Meeting and Coffee with the Principals: Thursday, March 21 at 12 p.m. via Zoom**
  - Budget and standing rules will be voted on as the first order of business.
  - We will have Tony Kowalak, District Food Manager, as our guest speaker. This meeting would be an excellent opportunity to learn all about school cafeteria food! Please email questions you may have for Tony to [dutchneckpresident@gmail.com](mailto:dutchneckpresident@gmail.com) by March 15.

### Important Dutch Neck PTA Links:

- **Dutch Neck PTA Membership:** To become a member, [click here](#).
- **Visit Our Website:** <https://dutchneckpta.org/>
- **Visit Our Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/dutchneckpta>

### Special Education PTSA (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

- Our students created and presented to their grade level peers all about the importance of being flexible! Students shared read alouds, videos, posters, skits, and conversations all about how thinking flexibly makes us stronger! Thank you to the students in Ms. Lehto, Mr. Mazzuchelli, Mrs. Flynn, Sra. Williams, Mrs. Espicopo, and Ms. Wolohan's classes for all of their great work! Please enjoy some pictures [linked here](#) from our student leaders.
- **We are excited to announce the first ever Dutch Neck Science Fair!**
  - SCIENCE FAIR DATE: Saturday, March 16, 2024, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
  - Registration information will be coming soon.
    - Students should be able to do most of the work on the project on their own but it's ok to talk to a teacher or a parent if they need some help.
  - **Looking for ideas** or guidelines about how to help your child so he or she has a successful, fun and safe project for the fair? Just continue reading below! You can sign up by yourself or with a team of 1 or 2 friends or siblings (from the Dutch Neck School) and then it's time to get to work, asking questions, exploring possibilities and finding answers! Working with others gives your child the opportunity to share ideas and discoveries. If working in a team, please help make sure that each team member has the chance to contribute to the project. A science fair project attempts to answer a question posed by your child. It requires research, organization and the desire to find answers to real-life questions. It does not need to be complicated or complex in nature. The more focused and specific the question the scientist asks, the easier it can be to research and present the findings. Therefore, the first thing a young scientist needs to do is select an appropriate topic and ask an appropriate scientific question. You can help guide your child in this process keeping in mind that the goal is to make sure this is a project, and a process that is driven

by your child's curiosity and not the parent's desire to have a perfect presentation. When you register, let us know which category of project the team is creating:

- Experiment
- Research
- Apparatus
- Demonstration
- Collection
- **SAFETY:** Be sure to select a project that does not risk harm to your child or anyone (or anything) else. DO NOT work with dangerous chemicals, fire, explosives, poisonous reptiles, or water with electricity.
- **SCIENCE FAIR RESTRICTIONS:**
  - No open or closed flames are allowed.
  - No live animals may be brought into the school.
  - No hazardous or poisonous materials may be used.
  - No explosives can be used.
- The Science Fair is meant to be a fun experience for your child and one that encourages their curiosity with the world around them. If you need some help getting ideas of age-appropriate topics, check out some of the links below (or check out the ever-popular Pinterest!) to help get your child started thinking about what he or she might want to explore for the Science Fair.
  - [www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)
  - <http://www.hometrainingtools.com/a/science-fair-projects-for-elementary>
  - <http://www.education.com/science-fair/elementary-school/?page=2>
  - [www.all-science-fair-projects.com](http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com)
  - [www.sciencebob.com/sciencefair/ideas.php](http://www.sciencebob.com/sciencefair/ideas.php)
- If you have any questions, please email the Science Fair Committee at the following email addresses.
  - Becky Marks— [Becky.g.marks@gmail.com](mailto:Becky.g.marks@gmail.com)
  - Padma Katapalli— [pkatapalli@gmail.com](mailto:pkatapalli@gmail.com)
- **From the Health Office:** If your child has symptoms of illness during the previous evening, consider making arrangements for your child to remain at home. Rest and early attention will often shorten the illness. It will also help cut down on the spread of germs at school. Sending a sick child to school not only endangers the health of all others but also increases your child's susceptibility to other illnesses to which they may be exposed. Please be reminded of the district policy regarding when children must stay home from school. Our [district illness exclusion policies](#) require students to be vomit, diarrhea, and fever free for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication, before they may

return to school. If you have questions about our health policies you may call Mrs. Lavan at 609-716-5400 or email her at [brenda.lavan@wwprsd.org](mailto:brenda.lavan@wwprsd.org).

- *Consider keeping your child home if they have symptoms that prevent them from participating in school, such as:*
    - Excessive tiredness or lack of appetite
    - Persistent coughing that could be distracting to your child and disruptive to the class.
    - Headache, body aches, earache
    - Unexplained rashes, sores, and crusty, inflamed eyes or other signs of contagious illness
    - Cold or runny nose if nasal discharge is excessive and/or not clear.
    - Sore throat - a minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset.
    - Children with "strep throat" or impetigo infections must remain home for 24 hours after the first antibiotic has been given.
    - If a diagnosis of pink eye has been made, children must remain home for 24 hours after antibiotics have been given, and/or until all drainage has stopped.
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## DISTRICT

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

## Reminders

- **2023-2024 School Year Calendar:** With the use of three emergency closing days (Jan. 16, 2024, Jan. 19, and Feb. 13, 2024) **all WW-P schools and board offices will be open April 24, April 1, and May 24, 2024.**
  - Based on the Jan. 16, Jan. 19, and Feb. 13 closures the [school year calendar](#), [half-day preschool calendar](#) and report card calendars for [PK-8](#) and [grades 9-12](#) have been updated.
- **WW-P Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences and Early Dismissal March 22, 2024:** All WW-P elementary schools will have an early dismissal and parent/teacher conferences Friday, March 22, 2024. Half-day preschool is closed. No food services will be provided March 22.
- **Spring Recess March 25-29, 2024:** All WW-P schools will be closed for Spring Recess Monday, March 25, through Friday, March 29, 2024. Schools will reopen Monday, April 1, 2024. District board offices will be closed Friday, March 29.

- **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](#).
- **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:**
  - **WW-P Spring Theater**
    - **HSS Spring Musical “A Chorus Line”:** Shows are 7 p.m. Feb. 29, March 1, and March 2, and 1:30 p.m. on March 2.
      - Tickets are \$12 at <https://our.show/achoruslinehss>.
    - **GMS Spring Play “A Wrinkle in Time”:** Shows are at 7 p.m. on March 8 and March 9 at Grover Middle School.
      - Tickets are \$10 at the door.
    - **CMS Spring Musical “Shrek Jr.”:** Shows are at 7:30 p.m. on April 4, April 5, and April 6.
      - Tickets are \$10 (cash only) and can be bought at the door the evening of the performance.
  - **HSN PTSA Senior Celebrations Committee will host [Designer Handbag BINGO](#):** Sunday, March 3, 3-5 p.m. at Millstone River School. This annual, community-wide event benefits HSN Senior Celebrations.
    - Get your tickets now for this SUPER FUN event by [clicking here](#).
    - Email questions to [hsnptsaseniors@gmail.com](mailto:hsnptsaseniors@gmail.com).

### 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 March 22, 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

- **High School Program of Studies Nights:** Virtual Program of Studies Nights were held for families of rising 9th grade students as well as families of rising 10th-12th grade students. To view the recordings of these info sessions and the 2024-2025 Program of Studies, please [click here](#).
  - [Genesis Parent Portal](#) is open for high school course requests through March 22, 2024.
- **Rising Grade 7 and 8 Students Middle School Course Selection for 2024-25 School Year:** [Genesis Parent Portal](#) will open at 3 p.m. today, Feb. 23, for parents/caregivers of current grade 6 and grade 7 students to make their course requests for the 2024-2025 school year. The system will remain open for requests through March 8, 2024. Parents/guardians of current grade 6 and 7 students should see the email sent Feb. 21 for more information.
- **Parent University:**
  - **Upcoming Virtual Event:** Save 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.
  - View material from previous Parent University presentations, including the Feb. 13 panel discussion, "**Benefits of Youth Sports**" and the Feb. 26 "**Anxiety and Teens**" presentation, [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

- **Spring After School Enrichment Registration is Now Open!** Check out what is happening around the elementary schools this spring! New and 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! Limited spaces are available.
  - Check out the program brochure [here!](#)
  - Register through Community Pass [here](#). (Click on 2024 Spring After School Enrichment.)
- **Saturday Youth & Adult Programs:** Register for these programs in Community Pass under 2023-2024 Adult & Youth [here!](#)
  - **Saturday Programs:** Join On The Court Basketball, TGA Tennis, Brainy n Bricht, Bricks 4 Kidz, and Mindful Movements with Jackie for a jam packed Saturday of fun!
    - Check out page 8 in the 2024 Spring Brochure [here!](#)
  - **Adult Programs:** Coast Boating school is back for another season of Boaters Certification! Reduce stress or put down those vices for good with a hypnosis class! Or, for the currently retired community, evaluate your retirement, learn new ways to stay healthy and active, and learn ways to plan your estate with Rejuvenate your Retirement!
    - Check out page 10 of the spring brochure [here!](#)
- **\*NEW Swimming Programs**
  - **Instructional Swimming:** Community Education is now offering spring swimming programs! Students ages 5 to 10 can sign up for instructional swim classes, taught by an experienced WW-P teacher and coach! Classes run Saturdays April 6 - May 4 at the High School North pool. Instructional classes are for beginner (no swim experience) and intermediate (some swimming experience) students.
    - Check out the program flier [here!](#)
    - Register [here](#) under 2023-2024 Adult & Youth Programs, under 2023-2024 Adult & Youth, look for the Swimming Programs heading.
  - **Middle School Swim Clinic:** Experienced swimmers in middle school can refine their swimming skills with this engaging clinic!
    - Participants must first try-out for a spot in the clinic by filling out the google form [here](#).
    - The try-out takes place Thursday, March 21. Anyone participating in the tryout MUST be pre-registered!
    - Once accepted into the program, parents or guardians will have to register for the program on Community Pass. Each participant will receive their own WW-P United Swim Clinic cap.
    - For more information, check out the program flier [here!](#)



- **Lifeguard Certification:** Summer jobs are right around the corner! Interested in learning a life-long skill that could earn you extra money? Register for the American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification class and be on your way to potentially earning some decent money!
  - Lifeguard students must be at least 15-years of age or older!
  - Class 1 runs Friday, May 17 - Sunday, May 19
  - Class 2 runs Friday, June 7 - Sunday, June 9
  - Lifeguard recertification classes are Saturday, May 18 or Saturday, June 8.
  - For more information, check out the program flier [here!](#)
- **ACT & SAT Prep Course with Lentz & Lentz:** Lentz & Lentz is back this spring with ACT and SAT preparation courses! Classes begin March 6!
  - For more information and to register for the course, visit the Lentz & Lentz flier [here!](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** The Extended Day Program (EDP) is looking to fill open positions in the West Windsor schools.
  - Open EDP 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.)
  - Apply [online here](#)

## Food Services

- **NEW!** Check out the new Sodexo Nutrislice Menu website: <https://west-windsor-plainsboro.nutrislice.com/>
- WW-P Food Services is excited to offer a **breakfast program at the elementary school level.**
  - Families should check their email for more information and the order form link.
  - 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.
- **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

- **Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts Virtual Workshop: Tuesday, March 12, 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 creating special needs trusts 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 March 7, 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](https://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.
- **Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition for High School Juniors and Seniors.** Submission deadline is March 8. This competition is open to all high school seniors and juniors who are residents in New Jersey and plan to continue their education after high school. [Click here](#) for details.
- **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.
- **Autism: Start Here Virtual Meetup:** Join Autism New Jersey's Directors of Family Wellness and Information Services in a virtual meetup to learn about autism and how to navigate services in New Jersey. The workshop will be held virtually March 19, 2024, at 12 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Sexting, Texting, Cyber-Bullying and Media Manipulation and the Dangerous Consequences: How our laws have become outpaced by technology:** The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present this public program via Zoom April 18, 2024, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This webcast is free for members of the public. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).
- **West Windsor Arts Second Annual Family Fun Night:** The Arts Council will host a night for families March 1, 2024. Activities include arts and crafts, board and card games, building stations, and galaxy fun in our space room. Tickets are \$5/person or \$15/family. Caregivers must accompany their child(ren). For more info and to register, 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](#)**