

March 15, 2024

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

March 22, 2024 - Elementary school early dismissal and parent/teacher conferences: WW-P elementary school students will have an early dismissal Friday, March 22, 2024. Half-day preschool is closed.

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) with the principals in their office! Three lucky students will be randomly chosen for this event on April 2. Sign up [here](#)
 - The date will be decided by the principals.
- **Save The Date *April 12* Spring Book Fair**
 - Join us for an evening of fun at the Barnes & Noble Princeton store (located in Market Fair) from 4- p.m.
 - There will be story time with DN teachers, selfies with Dexter and crafts, all while you can shop for books! A special "Dexter drink" will be available for purchase at the in-store Starbucks!
 - You don't want to miss this event!
- **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 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 by TODAY, March 15.
- **Barnes and Noble Book Fair:** Friday, April 12, from 4-7 p.m.

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 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

- **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.
 - *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.

DISTRICT

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

Reminders

- **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.
- **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.
- **Genesis Unavailable 3 p.m. March 26, through 10 a.m. March 27, 2024:** The WW-P Genesis Parent Portal, Genesis Student Portal, Employee Portal and SIS will close at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, 2024, for a database update and will reopen at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 27. During this time, parents/guardians, students and staff members will not have access to the Genesis Systems listed above.
- **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**
 - **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.
 - **High School North v. High School South Varsity Baseball Game at Trenton Thunder Stadium** Friday, April 13, 2024, at 6 p.m. No tickets are needed. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.
- **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

- **Community Ed Summer Programs Are Here!:** Community Education is back at Community Middle School for another amazing summer full of even more program options! Half and full day camps are available along with extended care! Programs begin Monday, June 24, and are available through Friday, August 9. Check out the [summer program guide here](#) for all of the new and exciting programs!
 - Mix and match a morning and an afternoon program from different providers to customize your child’s full day or choose from one of the many full-day camps! For those staying with Community Education for a full day, lunch supervision is provided!
 - Register for one week, or all seven! But, register early as spaces are already beginning to fill.
 - Registration closes the Wednesday before the new camp weeks begin and can be done online through [Community Pass](#)!
- **Community Education Summer Open House Saturday, April 27:** Join Community Education along with several of our program providers at the Summer Open House on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. at Community Middle School!
 - [Click here](#) for more information.

Food Services

- 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 Services Rising Grade 6 Virtual Middle School Parent Orientation:** The WW-P Special Services Department will host a virtual parent orientation Wednesday, March 20, from 6-7 p.m. for parents/guardians of rising 6th grade students. This presentation will provide an overview of the special education programs and services offered at Community and Grover Middle Schools. Caregivers of rising grade 6 students are asked to [RSVP here](#) by Friday, March 15. Please [click here](#) for more information and for the meeting 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.
- **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](#).

- **Plainsboro Recreation in conjunction with Special Olympics New Jersey to host a Spring Special Olympics - Young Athlete Program:** Children (ages 2-8) with and without special needs and their parents are invited to participate in this sports play program. There are eight classes in the series. Classes will be held Wednesdays April 3-May 29, 4-4:45 p.m. For more info and to enroll, please [click here](#).
- **Healthy Kids Running Series** Sundays April 7-May 5 at 4 p.m. in Princeton Junction at Duck Pond Park. Click [here](#) for more information and to register or visit the [Healthy Kids Running Series website](#) 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](#).
- **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](#)