

March 22, 2024

Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

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. There will be no newsletters March 29. Newsletters will resume Friday, April 5, 2024.

PTA

- **Congratulations** to all the Dutch Neck Science Fair participants! **A BIG THANK YOU** to **Padma Katapalli** and **Becky Marks** for organizing the first Science Fair at Dutch Neck!
- **LAST CHANCE! Pizza with the Principals Contest: GET YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIPS!!**
 - 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**
- YEARBOOK EARLY BIRD SALE and SPIRITWEAR ON SALE!
 - Yearbook early bird pricing is \$35 through April 21. Yearbook delivery will be the week of June 10. Yearbooks can be purchased [here](#).
 - Spiritwear can be purchased [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

- **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

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Dutch Neck School Families,

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I write to share with you my decision to retire upon the completion of the 2023-24 school year. My time in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, particularly as principal of Dutch Neck Elementary School for the past 14 years, has been incredibly fulfilling. Working alongside dedicated teachers and staff who prioritize education and exemplify professionalism in their interactions with students has been a privilege. Each day, I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with a team that genuinely cares about every child. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our supportive parents and community partners who have contributed to the strength and pride of Dutch Neck School. Being part of this school community has been an absolute honor and joy.

The children I've had the pleasure of serving have been a source of inspiration, and I will carry their smiles with me as I embark on the next chapter of my life. Educating students and working with a dedicated staff has been a deeply honorable profession, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have done so for the past 34 years, with 32 of those years devoted to the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District. I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the district's mission, serving in various capacities such as a middle school math teacher, elementary math & science supervisor, assistant principal, and principal. Though my roles have varied over the years, my calling has always been that of a teacher and a lifelong learner, dedicated to meeting the needs of all children, families, and colleagues.

My most cherished memories revolve around the collaborative efforts of staff, families, and students in nurturing the growth and development of our children. My aspiration as an educator has always been to instill passion for learning and to equip students for life beyond the classroom. While I eagerly anticipate more time with family and friends in retirement, I will deeply miss being part of the educational community in West Windsor-Plainsboro.

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have served as principal of Dutch Neck School, and I will always treasure the support I've received. I sincerely wish each member of our school community - students, faculty, staff, and the broader community - all the very best. Until the last day of this school year, I will cherish every moment spent with students, teachers, and staff, as well as the opportunity to see and engage with parents and families during our upcoming events.

With gratitude,
David J. Argese
Principal, Dutch Neck School

School Updates:

- **Resilience!:** Resilience is such an important part of our education—academic, social, emotional... And students shared wonderful presentations with their grade level on the topic this week! They included scenarios, songs, read alouds, video clips with turn and talks—all with our students taking the lead to teach their peers! Thanks to Sra. Spallone, Ms. Passalacqua, Mrs. S. O'Connell, Mrs. Cortina, Ms. Schiavo, and Sra. Bouchard's classes for their amazing presentations! Enjoy some pictures [here](#).
- **STEAM NIGHT! Wednesday April 3!:**
 - We are very excited to invite you and your family to enjoy STEAM Night at Dutch Neck School on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m. In your child's backpack, you will see a green paper about signing up for STEAM Night events. Please be sure to read the sign up directions carefully:
 - There will be ticketed and non-ticketed events for you and your family to enjoy.
 - Please note if you have multiple children that attend Dutch Neck School and will be attending sessions, you will need to fill the form out again for each child (1 child per form)
 - When selecting an event, please use your child's first and last name rather than your own. This will help with distributing tickets

to your child in school. Please also add your child's teacher's name to the notes section at sign up.

- Although you will see there are 3 sessions, please only select 1 or 2 events per child to attend. We ask this so that all of our Dutch Neck families have a chance to share in the experience.
- Please note this is a free and family event- guardians need to attend with children.
- [Click here](#) to sign up for STEAM Night events.
- **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

- **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 1, April 24, 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.
- **[Grovers Mill Bridge Traffic Advisory for the Week of March 25, 2024:](#)** PSE&G work on the Grovers Mill Bridge will begin March 25. Millstone Rd from Cranbury Rd. to Maple Ave. will be closed from 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.
 - Motorists will be detoured using Cranbury Rd. and Grovers Mill Rd. Please obey the temporary traffic control measures.
 - If additional work arises, work would continue into the week of April 1, 2024 (7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday to Friday) which would impact High School North, Community Middle School and Millstone River School drop off and pickup.
 - Should additional work be needed during the week of April 1, students are highly encouraged to take district-provided transportation rather than parent drop off/pick up.
 - PSE&G has expressed that this job is dynamic that may change as the project continues.
- **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 **TODAY, March 22, 2024.**

- **Attention Sophomore Parents/Caregivers:** Please join us for an evening program for sophomore families and students where you'll get a behind the scenes look at how the highly selective admission process works.
 - The in-person event is open to sophomores and their parents/guardians and will be held **Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 7-8:30 p.m.** in the Lower Dining Hall at High School North (90 Grovers Mill Rd., Plainsboro)
 - This workshop will be interactive with participants.
 - Families must register to attend. [Click here](#) to register and for additional details.
- **Parent University:**
 - **Monday, April 15, 7-8 p.m.:** The topic will be "Handling Emotional Dysregulation".
 - Zoom link to attend: <https://zoom.us/j/98402786253>
 - 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

- WW-P Food Services and Sodexo are excited to announce the **winners of the 2024 Future Chefs Culinary Competition.** Congratulations to:
 - 3rd Place: Samaira Thankachan - Millstone River School 5th grade student. Recipe was homemade vodiccine.
 - 2nd Place: Kavi Sharma - Village School 5th grade student. Recipe was crunchy, munchy salad
 - 1st Place: Avani Jaiswal – Millstone River School 5th grade student. Recipe was chicken biryani.
 - Please also congratulate: Jordyn Wilson (Millstone River School grade 5) with pastelón de platano maduro; Elias Almonte (Village School grade 4) with Flan; Achyut Vidhyut (Village School grade 5) with the rolling potatoes.
 - All of the participants did an amazing job. Good luck to Avani as she moves on to the National Competition!
- 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

- **Support Coordinator Fair: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 6-7:30 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 an in-person support coordinator fair in the Multipurpose Room at WWPRSD Central Offices (321 Village Rd. East, West Windsor).
 - This fair would be most appropriate for families who have students in Multiple Disabilities (MD) and Autism special education programs (high school through Post Grad). All are welcome to attend. [Click here](#) for more information, a list of agencies attending and RSVP form.
 - [RSVP](#) by April 9, 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.
- **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](#)