

April 19, 2024

## Dutch Neck Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

**April 23, 2024: All WW-P schools will be closed Tuesday, April 23, 2024. District offices are open April 23. Schools are open and in-session Wednesday, April 24, 2024.**

### PTA

- **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](#). Spiritwear orders will be fulfilled a week after the orders are placed.
- **TRENTON THUNDER TICKETS on SALE for Friday, June 7, at 7 p.m.**
  - Celebrate Principal Argese's retirement at the game as he throws the first pitch and does the Dizzy Bat!
  - Although there is no singing opportunity this year, one lucky student will be randomly chosen to throw out the first pitch with Mr. Argese!
  - Purchase Trenton Thunder Tickets for \$15 [here](#)
  - Tickets will be delivered the week before the game.
- **LAST CALL to Submit Yearbook Photos!**: Have a picture of your child during the Science Fair, STEAM Night, or Barnes and Noble Spring Book Fair that you would like to share for the yearbook? Please email photos to the following email addresses with your child's name and grade in the subject line by **Friday, April 19**:
  - Science Fair: [submit+1768595@edophotos.com](mailto:submit+1768595@edophotos.com)
  - STEAM Night: [submit+1688282@edophotos.com](mailto:submit+1688282@edophotos.com)
  - Barnes and Noble Spring Book Fair: [submit+1768599@edophotos.com](mailto:submit+1768599@edophotos.com)

### Upcoming Events:

- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** May 6-10
- **Trenton Thunder:** Friday, June 7, at 7 p.m.
- **Third Grade Picnic:** Thursday, June 6, from 1-3 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 Office Hours (Sunday, April 21, from 4-5 p.m., McCaffrey Café):** Join us for an informal meetup to ask questions and/or share experiences. If you have a question or this timing doesn't work with your schedule, but you'd like support or to connect with other families dealing with situations similar to yours, please feel free to contact Kathleen at [kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net).
- **SEPTSA Meeting (Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., virtual):** Join us for our next PTSA meeting with practitioners from Alexander Road Associates, a local medical practice specializing in child and adolescent psychology. They will discuss common applications and trends in pharmaceutical support for those impacted by intellectual, emotional and behavioral challenges. A brief PTSA meeting will precede the talk. Contact Kathleen to RSVP by 5 p.m. on April 24 and to obtain the Zoom link. ([kkz4@verizon.net](mailto:kkz4@verizon.net)).
- **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](#)

---

## 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](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.

## **DISTRICT**

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

## **Reminders**

- **WW-P Schools Closed Tuesday, April 23, 2024:** All WW-P schools will be closed Tuesday, April 23, 2024. District offices are open April 23, 2024. Schools are open and in-session Wednesday, April 24.
- **April 25, 2024, is Take Your Child to Work Day:** Parents/guardians who wish to take their child(ren) to their workplace are reminded to enter their child’s absence in Genesis for April 25, 2024, as “Take Your Child to Work Day” (this can be done prior to April 25). In addition, parents/guardians of elementary school students are asked to email their child’s homeroom teacher. Students who are participating in Take Your Child to Work Day are responsible to complete any assignments/tests missed in school on April 25.
- **2023-2024 School Year Calendar:** With the use of emergency closing days this winter, **all WW-P schools and board offices will be open 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.
- **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.

### 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 April 26, 2024.

### Health and Safety

- **UPDATED APRIL 18, 2024:** Please [click here](#) for the District’s **updated COVID and respiratory illness guidance** for the 2023-2024 school year.
  - Updates were made according to the guidance released by the New Jersey Department of Health on April 17, 2024.

### 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:** View material from previous Parent University presentations [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.
- **Mini Explorers Program Open for Registration:** Mini Explorers is a full-day program for our 4-year-old students in the WW-P serving area! Held at Wicoff Elementary School, students are able engage in literacy, art, movement and dramatic play activities from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Students will need to pack a nut free lunch, snacks and a water bottle each day. It is recommended that each student also bring a yoga mat or beach towel for rest time.
  - To learn more about the Mini Explorers program, click the links below:
    - [Mini Explorers Parent Handbook](#)
    - [Mini Explorers General Information](#)
- **Saturday Programs:** There's still time to register for some of Community Education's engaging Saturday programs! From basketball to tennis to robotics and art... there is something for everyone in the coming weeks!
  - All Saturday programs are held at Community Middle School! A minimum enrollment must be met in order to run a successful program!

- Check out page 8 in the [spring brochure](#) for more information.
- Registration for open programs has been extended until Wednesday, April 24, in [Community Pass](#)!
- **Lifeguard Certification Classes Running:** There is still time to register for the Red Cross Lifeguard Certification classes in either May or June! Both classes will definitely be running! Summer jobs are right around the corner and we do not want you to miss out!
  - Both classes are held at High School North. Students must be present for all in-person meetings.
  - Check out the program flier [here](#).
  - Register in Community Pass [here](#).
- **2024-2025 Extended Day Program Registration**
  - Extended Day Program Registration (EDP) will officially open for registration on Monday, June 24, 2024.
  - Both new **AND** existing students will need to register for the program on or before Tuesday, Aug. 27, in order to use the service for the first week of the new school year. Community Education does not recommend waiting until August to register for the program.
  - All schools have capacity limitations. Once your child's school has reached the maximum number of students, the school will no longer appear in Community Pass for registration.
    - Should a school EDP program reach capacity, families may contact Community Education to be placed on a waiting list. As spaces become available throughout the school year, Community Education will contact those on the waitlist.
    - Check out the informational links below for more information:
      - [2024-2025 EDP General Information](#)
      - [2024-2025 EDP Parent Handbook](#)
      - [2024-2025 EDP Flier](#)

## Food Services

- **Sodexo Food Services Wants to Hear From You!:** Parents/guardians and middle and high school students, please take a few minutes to provide feedback about school meals using the link that follows. This short survey closes April 30, 2024. Sodexo thanks you in advance for your participation.
  - Survey link: <https://imo.cx/PZt1YTEz>
- 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.

## 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

- **Bicycle Safety and Repair Clinic - April 27:** The West Windsor Library in cooperation with the Friends of the West Windsor Library and the West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance will host a bicycle repair clinic at the West Windsor Library April 27 from 2-4 p.m. [Click here](#) for more details. Children and parents are invited to attend and learn how to repair your bikes.
- **Note from New Jersey American Water:** Crews from American Water will begin routine flushing of the water distribution system in our area. This will occur April 19-May 3. When crews are working, a change in water pressure and discolored water may be observed. If the water is discolored, run the cold water taps for 3-5 minutes until the water runs clear. For more info, please [click here](#).
- **Teens' Working Papers:** Teens looking to obtain working papers may do so online. For more information, please visit: [myworkingpapers.nj.gov](http://myworkingpapers.nj.gov).
- **West Windsor Shade Tree Commission Presents an Arbor Day Celebration:** "A Family of Trees" will occur April 20, 2024, from 10-11 a.m. at Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum (Rt. 571 and Clarksville Rd.). For more information, [click here](#).
- **West Windsor Police Department S.A.F.E. (Secure Awareness for First Encounters) Registry:** The West Windsor Police Department has created an optional registry for our community members that are Autistic or have another communication disability in efforts to give police quick access to critical information about a person who is registered in an emergency situation. The registry will provide officers with emergency contact information, detailed physical description (including photo), medical concerns, best way to communicate, known stressors/stress reducers, etc.
  - For additional information, please [click here](#).
  - For the S.A.F.E. application, 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](#)**