

The Hurlbutt Buzz

Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, September 5, 2013

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

Oct. 14 – No School – Columbus Day

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Sept. 11 – General PTO Meeting – South House Cafeteria

Oct. 2 – Hurlbutt Photo Day

WHAT'S IN THIS WEEK'S NEWSLETTER?

- [A Message from the Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents](#)
- [Board of Education Review](#)
- Philanthropy Committee Requests Your Presence at the PTO Meeting
- Wall Calendars featuring artwork by Hurlbutt Students available online
- Sign up to volunteer in the Learning Resource Center (LRC)
- Hurlbutt's School Photo Day is October 2nd
- [Here are some easy ways to help earn money for the school](#)
- Gently Used Clothing Requested by School Nurse
- A Message from the Weston Youth Services
- Weston Park and Recreation flyers are available on their website
- Girl Scouts Registration
- Boy Scouts Registration

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

1. A MESSAGE FROM DAN MCNEILL & TAMMY ROBERTS, HURLBUTT PTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Well we did it. What exactly did we do, you ask? Let us tell you. We made it through a normal, scheduled, regular first two weeks of school without any hurricanes, tornadoes, monsoons, UFO attacks, tsunamis, cyclones, Bigfoot sightings, blizzards or dust storms. Maybe Connecticut weather isn't as bad as we thought. And in those first two weeks we have already had two amazing Back to School nights for kindergarten and grade 1. It was so reassuring to see how dedicated and skilled our teachers, specialists, and administrators are as they described in great detail the learning adventures that await our children over the upcoming year. Equally as uplifting was the amazing parent attendance at each event. Both of these serve as a reminder of what a special community we have in Weston and in the Weston Public Schools.

While we have you here, we're going to remind you once again of two very important PTO events that are coming up. The first is our first PTO general meeting, which will be in the South House cafeteria at 9:30 on Wednesday, September 11. I can't emphasize enough that this meeting is open to everyone and we would love to have you there. We were called out on our shameless advertising from last week in which we stated that one lucky attendee "may or may not win a brand new car". As you can imagine, the result is most likely going to be "may not". But do you really want to chance it?

The second event is our membership drive. As a PTO member you receive a copy of the combined HES and WIS handbook, which provides you with all the information you need to get in touch with your kids' friends and families. You also get added to our email distribution list which features, among other things, this wonderful newsletter. Don't like email? That's ok, you can simply delete it...an activity you will not get to partake in if you aren't on the list. So please take a second and click [here](#) to sign up and join the PTO. We'll make you a deal, if everybody joins in the next week, we won't remind you about it again in next week's newsletter. Sound good?

Have a great week.

Dan McNeill and Tammy Roberts
PTO Co-Presidents

2. BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW

New Legislation for Weston Public School (WPS) 2013-2014 school year

1. Academic Innovation & Measurements (AIM)

- Full Integration (K-12)
- Every school and every classroom
- Fueled by expanded internal capacity

2. Blended Learning

- Personalized learning
- Increasing effectiveness of teachers
- Expanding educational opportunities
- Not replacing teachers with technology, but rather...
- training teachers to keep up with technology that students are already

using...

- and show students how to learn with this technology
- Using programs to assist & personalize learning

3. Common Core Standards

- Ensure world class preparation
- Depth vs. Width
- Learn in great detail in one year, rather than small pieces over several years

- Emphasis on higher level thinking
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Preparation
 - Weston wants to be a CT pilot school in Spring 2014
 - Adaptive, online assessments in all subjects except in Science
 - Online testing will not require paper or pencils
 - When a question is answered correctly, a more challenging question is given
 - When a question is answered incorrectly, a appropriate level question is given
 - This way all students are challenged accordingly
 - 31 states (including CT) will be joining the SBA
 - Weston can then be compared with 30 other states
 - Test scores might drop while teachers & students get familiar with the SBA
 - Testing is not as rigidly structured as CMT and CAPT
 - Therefore, testing can have a less strict schedule
 - Phase out CMT and CAPT
- Teacher & Administration Evaluation
 - CT Department of Education approved Weston's teacher evaluation plan

Student Enrollment Update

Hurlbutt Class			
Size	2012-2013 Actual	2013-2014 Projected	2013-2014 Actual
K	115	116	134
1	157	119	133
2	163	160	176
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Total	435	395	443

BOE projected that enrollment in HES would decline by (-40) students or (-9%). Actual enrollment in HES by August 19, 2013 was up by (+8) students or (+2%). Three new teachers have been added to Hurlbutt Elementary School.

BOE projected that the Weston Public School District would decline by (-65)students. Actual enrollment in the District is up by (+15) students. Twenty-one new teachers have been added to Weston Public Schools.

Projected enrollment figures were incorrect, and shall be investigated further.

Facilities Review and Shared Space

Weston is currently undergoing a full review of all town facilities. The town is trying to determine which departments need additional space/improvements and which departments might have unused/available space.

The Facilities Review has re-ignited the discussion of “shared space” with Hurlbutt Elementary School...particularly South House and North House.

The Board of Selectmen held a meeting (9/4/13) to discuss the possible relocation of the Senior Center to Emmanuel Church, on Lyon Plains Road. This could potentially return the Senior Center space to Hurlbutt students.

The idea of sharing Hurlbutt’s North House with town facilities is still an active conversation with town officials.

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting: Thursday, September 19th @ 7:30
Town Hall Meeting Room
for agenda see www.westonct.gov

Next Facilities Review Meeting: Tuesday, September 10th @ 12:00 pm
Central Office Conference Room

Visitors to School

All visitors are required to have a “valid” purpose for entering the schools. Appointments will be required for alumni, visiting parents, and potential students. All visitors shall “check in” with proper identification at security front desk in each school.

All “new” security measures for Weston Public Schools (2013-2014) in place and operational.

Additional Information

Bus schedules are available online @ www.westonps.org
Next BOE meeting is scheduled for 9/16/13 @ 7:30 pm.

PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy – Please join us at the general PTO meeting on Wednesday, September 11 to hear philanthropy presentations on the LRC Re-Imagining Project which will move our library toward a more student centered flexible environment supporting creativity, collaboration and communication and on the Hurlbutt PBIS

school spirit t-shirt initiative. Have a voice in how the PTO funds are used to enhance our school and our children's experience.

2013-2014 WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WALL CALENDAR SALE

Limited quantities still available for purchase online. Only \$12 and contains PTO meeting dates and district-wide early dismissals, holidays, and space for your activities. They make a great gift for students, friends, teachers and staff, too.

LRC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with library duties, shelve books, help children find books, check books out and check books in.

This year the children will be in the library for a 15-minute book exchange (1st and 2nd grades) and 20 minutes for Kindergarten once a week. While you may choose to sign up for the time slot when your child goes to the LRC, you're welcome to sign up for anytime. Priority will be given to parents from those classes. Most importantly, 1-hour time commitments are needed.

These times are subject to change, but are most likely for the entire school year. If we can get enough volunteers, then you will not be asked to volunteer every week, but every other week. We look for 2-4 volunteers per time slot, and commitment is for the entire academic year.

Volunteers will be starting around the second week in September. Click [here](#) to view time slots available and to sign-up to volunteer. Thank you!

The LRC greatly appreciates your time and commitment.

Sincerely,
Sam Leuzzi
LRC Chair

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY - Wednesday October 2nd

Although we are just in the first few days of school, we wanted to remind everyone that School Photo Day is just around the corner!! Photo Day will take place at HES on October 2nd.

Look for more information to go home in your child's backpack in the middle of September regarding order forms and class photo times!

MARKETPLACE

- Make sure to keep clipping those box tops. Every box top turned in earns \$ for our school. The summer clipping contest ends on Sept 20th. Return all of your box tops with your child's name, teacher and quantity of box tops. Winners will be announced on Oct 4th.

Visit www.btfе.com for further information on Box Tops for Education. You can create your profile and start earning ebox tops for online purchases at many of your favorite online retailers.

- Need great, easy to use, long lasting labels for your kids' stuff. Check out Label Daddy. Not only do you get great customized labels, they will also contribute 20% of your purchase to our PTO. Simply enter hurlbutt in the promo code line.

Go to www.labeldaddy.com to place your order.

- Do you shop at Stop & Shop?

With A+ BonusBucks, points accrue with each purchase when your Stop and Shop card is used. It even works with purchases made online with Peapod by Stop & Shop. Last year Weston Schools received over \$2,000 just by parents registering their cards. This is at NO COST to you.

Go to www.westonpspto.org to enter your stop & shop number.

- Love shopping at Target?

Use your Target Debit Card, Target Credit Card[®] or Target[®] Visa[®] Credit Card to get everyday savings, support your favorite K-12 school, make prescriptions rewarding and more. Target will donate up to 1% of your REDcard purchases at Target stores in the U.S and at Target.com.

Go to www.target.com to apply for a new card or link your existing card.

REQUEST FOR KIDS' CLOTHING FOR THE SCHOOL

Doing your Fall cleaning, and have clothes that don't fit your children anymore? Put them to good use. The Nurse is in need of gently worn pants and shorts (girls and boys) size 2-12; and lightly used medium and large tops (girls and boys). Please bring the clothes to the School Nurse's office. Thank you!

SOCIAL MEDIA – FACEBOOK & TWITTER

[Click here](#) to find us on Facebook. Like our page and get updated information in your Facebook newsfeed. [Click here](#) to follow us on Twitter. The PTO's website is www.westonpspto.org. **Sign up by 9/15 to be included in the directory and to continue receiving this newsletter via email.**

AROUND TOWN

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

Looking for an afterschool activity for your little one?

Registration for fall WOW! programs is open and there is still space available in many of our awesome offerings! Visit <http://www.westonyouthservices.org> for program descriptions - classes begin the week of September 16th.

Trying to navigate the summer-to-school shift?

A new school year brings lots of new and sometimes lots of nerves, and switching from summer into school mode can be challenging for children and parents alike! Join us this month as we tackle Routines, Rules, and Roles; we'll discuss transitions and timing (as in getting kids out of bed, to school, to activities, and then back into bed!), homework habits, and study skills.

Thursday September 19th

12-1:30 pm

Town Hall Annex Conference Room

A light lunch will be provided!

Tuesday September 24th

7-8:30 pm

Weston Public Library Community Room

Light refreshments will be provided!

To RSVP to any of the upcoming sessions please email malbright@westonct.gov or call 203-222-2585. Programs are open to all parents and caregivers and there is no fee to attend.

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION

Information on fall youth after school programs are now available. Flyers for [Dancercise Grades 1 & 2](#), [Dancercise Grades 3 & 4](#); Sports & Fitness for Grades [K, 1, 2](#), and [3-5](#); [swimming](#); and [pool permit](#) instructions can also be viewed at www.westonct.gov. Sign up [online](#) (check flyers for date and times).

GIRL SCOUTS REGISTRATION

Would you like your daughter to...

Experience new places and activities? Learn Life Skills? Make new friends? Gain more self-confidence? Improve the world? Register for GIRL SCOUTS!

Check out the **GIRLS SCOUTS**

Would you like your daughter to...

Learn Life Skills?

Make new friends?

Gain more self confidence?

Improve the world?

REGISTER for GIRL SCOUTS!

If your daughter is interested in Girl Scouts and becoming a Daisy or a Brownie or if you would like to lead a troop please contact Nikki Lehman at nikki.lehman@me.com.

Interested in joining Weston Girl Scouts?

Fill out the information bellow and you will be contacted over the next few weeks by Nikki Lehman.

Name & Grade for 2013-2014 _____

Parent name: _____

Parent e-mail & phone: _____

CUB SCOUTS REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Cub Scouts - Boys in grades 1 through 5. To learn more, please visit Pack 75's site at <http://westonpack75.org/> Feel free to email Gai Bos at guy3bos@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Our first meeting for the new academic year is Sept. 21st from 5PM-6:30PM at WIS cafetorium. Thanks!

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS AT THE WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

There are lots of activities at the Weston Public Library in September! All programs are free and open to the public. www.westonpubliclibrary.org

NORFIELD GRANGE FAIR

Sunday, Sept. 8th from 10am - 3pm 45th Annual Grange Fair & Market...fun for the whole family! 45 contests, kids games, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, snack bar, lots of vendors (handmade, homemade, homegrown & more), entertainment & more. Hopefully you received a postcard in July & reminder this week! See you there and if you want to help...let me know. Enter the contests & your kids can too.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions should be relevant to Hurlbutt and the Town of Weston (i.e., town sports programs, Town of Weston sponsored community events or after-school sports programs for students taking place in the Town of Weston). If there is any question regarding the relevance of a submission, final approval will be determined by The Hurlbutt Scoop editor and/or the Hurlbutt PTO President. Submission deadline is Tuesday – The Hurlbutt Scoop is emailed to all registered PTO Members on Thursday!

3. *All write-ups should be in WORD format and the content should be print-ready,*
4. *If you have a flyer, please submit a brief write-up and we will attach the flyer to the newsletter,*
5. *If you want to re-run something from the previous week, let us know; review the write-up - does it need updating, i.e., change the wording from “coming home this week” to “you should have received last week”? If so, revise and resubmit,*
6. *The email address for the Scoop is hesptonewsletter@westonpspto.org
Thank you for your support and cooperation.*