

The Hurlbutt Buzz

Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, September 12, 2013

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

Oct. 14 – No School – Columbus Day

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Sept. 15 – Last day to register for PTO to be included in the directory

Sept. 19 – LRC Orientation Meeting – LRC – 9 am

Sept. 29 – Last day for Innisbrook Orders

Oct. 2 – Hurlbutt Photo Day - All Day

Oct. 9 – General PTO Meeting – SH Cafeteria - 9:30 am

Oct. 16 – PTO Philanthropy Meeting – NH 5 – 9:30 am

Sept. 16 – BOE Meeting – Weston Public Library – 7:30 pm

Sept. 19 – Board of Selectman Meeting – Town Hall Meeting Room - 7:30 pm

Sept. 25 – BOS, BOE, BOF Joint Meeting – WMS Library – 7:30 pm

Oct. 9 – Facilities Review Meeting – Ofc of Director of Finance & Operations – 4:00 pm

WHAT'S IN THIS WEEK'S NEWSLETTER?

- A Message from the Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents
 - A Message from the Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal
 - Board of Education Update
 - A Message from the LRC
 - LRC Orientation is Sept. 19
 - Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser through 9/29
 - HES Yearbook and new Shutterfly website
 - HES Book Fair Date RESCHEDULED
 - Thank you for your help with Luncheon
 - Wall Calendars featuring artwork by Hurlbutt Students available online and at Fairfield County Bank
 - Hurlbutt's School Photo Day is October 2nd
 - [Here are some easy ways to help earn money for the school](#)
 - A Message from the Weston Youth Services
 - Weston Park and Recreation flyers are available on their website
 - Girl Scouts Registration
 - Boy Scouts Registration
 - Weston Public Library News
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SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

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

What a week! Let me explain. No, there is no time, let me sum up. This week we saw the final Back to School Night presentation, this time for second grade. Once again this evening served as a reminder of how lucky we are to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated faculty at Hurlbutt. Speaking of Back to School Night, we are down to our last box of wall calendars! (The very loose connection is that we were selling calendars at BTSN). So if you haven't gotten yours yet, now is the time to do so. They can be bought [online](#), in the main office, or at the bank in town center. A big THANK YOU goes out to Amy Meyerson and Stacey Tucker for all their hard work on the calendars!

The highlight of my week came this morning at our first General PTO meeting. We were lucky enough to have many of our district leaders, counseling staff, Weston Youth Services representatives and BOE members attend a packed house of thousands of members. (I may be a bit off on the attendance numbers, so be glad that Tammy is the treasurer and not me). But seriously, the attendance was great; it really is the time that parents dedicate that makes our PTO as wonderful as it is. We hope to see even more people at our October 9 meeting. In the meantime, if you would like a recap of what was discussed at this meeting, we are working on putting the minutes online for all to see, so look for that soon. But the highlight that I wanted to share with you was the membership's approval of \$12,500 for our Learning Resource Center Reimaging project. Sharon Rodko gave a well thought out presentation (using pictures and everything) outlining her vision for the LRC and how it could become a mobile and flexible functional learning and meeting space appropriate for pre-kindergarteners all the way up to second graders. The Philanthropy committee, chaired by Katie Gregory, worked tirelessly dating back to May of last year to make sure this project could happen, and it is with great anticipation that we await the transformation of one of Hurlbutt's most valuable learning spaces.

If I can leave you with one takeaway, it's that the strength of our PTO is in its membership. Even if it is only for an hour at one point in the year, we hope that you will find an opportunity to volunteer your time to one of initiatives. We simply can't do it without (insert your name here). Thanks for reading, and as always, please email or call us if you have any questions.

Yours,
Dan McNeill and Tammy Roberts
PTO co-presidents
HESPTOPresident@westonpspto.org

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KADDIS

As we enter our third week of the academic year, I continue to observe excitement about learning in each classroom. Our students have reconnected with friends from last year and have begun to forge new relationships. A new year is always an opportunity for students to expand their social circles. We are so proud of how they have settled into the routines of the school. Ask them about all the honeycombs they have earned for being safe, kind and responsible. So far they have earned 48 honeycombs as a school.

Hurlbutt students (278 of them!) turned in summer reading logs that listed a total of 5680 books read this summer. To mark this achievement our students will gather as a school community to collectively recognize this accomplishment and celebrate reading. At this all-school assembly we will also meet Horace the Hurlbutt Honeybee. Special thanks to our amazing PTO for supporting our school spirit and providing us with our mascot.

More good news for Hurlbutt: This past winter America's milk processors encouraged consumers to enter their school in a contest by submitting their milk UPC codes. Hurlbutt was one of 250 schools across the country selected from the entries to win a grant. A representative from the New England Dairy & Food Council will be presenting us with a \$1000 check to enhance wellness efforts.

Laura Kaddis
Principal
LauraKaddis@westonps.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Facilities Review and Shared Space with Weston Public Schools

A ***Space Needs and Feasibility Study*** for Weston Public School is scheduled to begin this week. Weston's Superintendent of Schools Coleen Palmer and First Selectman Gayle Weinstein have entered into contracts with Silver/Petrucelli Associates (Architect), 3190 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.

The study will investigate the possibilities of restructuring HES and/or WMS to make appropriate space available for town employees to move into the schools. The schools will be reorganized to "share space" with town facilities. Therefore, *shared space* refers to students sharing a building with town employees.

The search for available space will be limited to Hurlbutt Elementary School (HES), Weston Middle School (WMS) and Central Office (BOE).

The study's most viable options appear to be one or more of the following:

- Moving the Senior Center out of HES South House to help restructure the floor plan
- Moving 2nd Grade from HES to WIS to make room for town offices in HES
- Moving 6th Grade from WMS to WIS to make room from town offices in WMS
- Moving 3rd Grade from WIS to HES to make room for the relocated 6th Grade

The study will also analyze the space requirements for the potential relocation of the Finance Department, I.T. Department, Parks & Recreation, and Central Office. Town Hall (other than departments listed above), Weston High School (WHS), and Weston Intermediate School (WIS) will not be included in the study.

The study will:

- Investigate and field verify all existing conditions of the buildings and land in question.
- Evaluate surplus space and propose the relocation of specific classes.
- Create *draft plans* for review with town, *final plans* & report narrative with all findings & recommendations, construction cost estimate, and construction schedule.
- Cost \$27,000 (fixed fee).
- Begin work this week.
- Produce *first draft* for public discussion by January 2014.

Security Study will be completed by independent third party that specializes in school security. Additional information will follow as we learn more.

Change to the Weston Public School Systems would not be any earlier than the 2015-2016 school year. 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years will not be affected.

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting: Thursday, September 19th @ 7:30
Town Hall Meeting Room

Next Facilities Review Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th @ 4:00 pm
Office of the Director of Finance &

Operations

A MESSAGE FROM THE LRC

SUMMER READING & SOUND TIGERS

Be sure to check out our final summer reading results in Mrs. Kaddis's letter in the BUZZ! If you ordered Sound Tiger tickets through their summer reading promotion, they will be sent to your home. Please direct any ticket questions to Sarah Rodrigues from the Sound Tigers at [\(203\) 345-4823](tel:2033454823).

LRC BOOKS- Sharon Rodko, Librarian

First due dates for LRC books are approaching. Please help your student check their due dates so materials can be returned on time or brought to school to be renewed. Library materials are borrowed for a two week period. Please visit the HES LRC website for more info about library circulation policies <http://www.westonps.org/page.cfm?p=497> Thanks for helping your child be a responsible library patron.

LRC VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION THURSDAY – 9/19 – 9 am – 10 am

Please join us on Thursday, September 19th from 9-10am, to learn all the ins and outs of working in the HES LRC. This is also a good refresher to those with prior experience.

Please rsvp to me by Monday, September 16th to let me know if you can attend at samhleuzzi@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing/meeting you.

Light refreshments will be served.

Sam Leuzzi
LRC Chair

INNISBROOK GIFT WRAP FUNDRAISER

Your child brought home the catalog of all the Innisbrook products this week. Be sure to take a look at the wide range of goodies! As always, there is giftwrap, candy, and other treasures that will make your holiday giving a bit easier. This is one of the PTO's biggest fundraiser. Support our fabulous school and stock up.

The fundraiser will run from 9/9-9/26. Your orders will be ready for pick up before the Thanksgiving break (they will be on the south house stage/cafeteria).

You can also order online. Check the flyer for instructions.

Happy Shopping!

Questions? Email me at: elizatabacchi@yahoo.com

HES YEARBOOK 2013-2014

It's that time of year when we start asking for photos for the yearbook. We are looking for photos from last year's Memorial Day Fair, the Mother's Day Concert, the Kindergarten Concert and K and 1st Field days. We would like to see all of your current school pictures too. Please email Sam Leuzzi at samhleuzzi@gmail.com to be added to the Shutterfly share site.

HES BOOK FAIR – DATE CHANGE HES BOOKFAIR DATE CHANGE

The HES BOOKFAIR will be December 6- 13. More details and volunteer opportunities to come!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TEACHERS LUNCHEON

Back to School Teachers Luncheon

The back to school luncheon was held on Wednesday, August 21st. With more than 90 Hurlbutt staff members in attendance, everyone enjoyed a delicious Chinese Food buffet and an assortment of sweets. The event was a huge success and was a great way to help our teachers and staff kick off the 2013-2014 school year.

We could not have done this event without your support. Many thanks to our all our volunteers for their generous contributions. We hope you have a fantastic year!!!

Stacey Walker and Sara Godwin

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. For your convenience, they are also available for purchase at Fairfield County Bank in the Weston Town Center.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY - Wednesday October 2nd

School Photo Day - Wednesday October 2nd

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 by the end of September regarding order forms and class photo times!

We are also looking for class volunteers that day to help out with getting kids ready for their pictures. If you haven't already volunteered, please look out for the opportunity from your room parents within the next week!

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.

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

We're very excited about our upcoming Fall WOW! After School programs at Hurlbutt Elementary School. All programs, except Little Scientist, are scheduled to begin the week of September 16th. (Little Scientist will begin on September 23rd) Space is limited, so if you're still thinking about registering for one or more of our programs, visit our website to register online today at www.westonyouthservices.org

For those who have already registered, a few very important reminders:

- Please remember to send in an alternate dismissal note, in duplicate, each day that your child is attending a program.
- With a limited amount of time for our classes, we do not allocate a set snack time. If you wish to send in something, please note that NO peanut/nut product snacks are permitted.
- Please pick up your child promptly at the end of the program. All programs end promptly at 4:15 p.m. except for Pre-Engineering with Legos. Students will be dismissed from the double doors by South House Cafeteria.

And parents, we've got plenty for you too! We are continuing "Tackling the Tough Stuff" - a series of conversations about the charms and challenges of parenting. Join us this month as we focus on 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, study skills, and how to manage saturated schedules while maintaining some sanity!

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](tel: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

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

September is a busy time of year as students return to school and summer vacations come to an end. It is also a busy time of year for the Library. September is national Library Card Sign-Up Month and if you don't have a library card or need to renew your card, this is the time to do it. The Library is introducing several new services and the Friends of the Library will be kicking off a year of special programming to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the library building. Helping us celebrate the Library as the cultural and educational center of the community will be some of Weston's best known residents. Becoming active at the library will insure that you are the first to know when these new events are announced.

Highlights for early fall include:

1. New Yorker Roundtable discussion group moderated by Diana Loevy, sponsored by the Friends of the Weston Public Library, the Friends of the Weston Senior Activities Center, and the Weston Education Foundation.
 2. A special performance from cabaret performer, Judi Mark, called "Dancing Through Life." This show features songs made famous by the women who danced on Broadway and the Silver Screen. Sept. 20
 3. The 2nd annual Touch-A-Truck hosted by Miss Joy with the help of her friends at the Public Works garage. Sept. 21
 4. And a very special encore performance from the Keating Family on October 19.
- To keep up to date with all of the programs offered at the Library, visit www.westonpubliclibrary.org or sign up for email blasts from the Friends of the Weston Public Library by writing to friendsofthewestonlibrary@gmail.com.

-Karen Tatarka
Director, Weston Public Library
Ktatarka@westonct.gov

Story Hours

September is also the time of year when Miss Joy, Weston's children's librarian, begins sign ups for story hours. From September 9th through the 14th, stop by the children's library to sign up for story hours featuring stories, games, songs and films! Story hours are available for ages 2 through 4. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Story Hour Schedule

2's Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 10AM
3's & 4's Tuesdays at 2PM

2nd Annual Touch A Truck, September 21st

On September 21st from 10AM-noon join Miss Joy at the Public Works garage on Old Hyde Rd. for a morning of fun with the family at Touch-A-Truck!
See the equipment Public Works uses to keep Weston's streets safe and clean.

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 P

TO President. Submission deadline is Tuesday – The Hurlbutt Scoop is emailed to all registered PTO Members on Thursday!

1. *All write-ups should be in WORD format and the content should be print-ready,*
 2. *If you have a flyer, please submit a brief write-up and we will attach the flyer to the newsletter,*
 3. *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,*
 4. *The email address for the Scoop is hesptonewsletter@westonpspto.org*
- Thank you for your support and cooperation.*