



September 4, 2014  
(No. 2)

## The Hurlbutt Buzz

The Hurlbutt Elementary School Newsletter

### UPCOMING PTO EVENTS & MEETINGS

Sept 8	1st Grade Back to School Night	7 pm
Sept 9	First full day for Kindergarten	Dismissal at 3:15pm
Sept 10	HES PTO General Meeting	9:15 am SH Cafe
Sept 10	2nd Grade Back to School Night	7 pm
Sept 11	LRC Volunteer Meeting	9 - 10 am in LRC
Sept 15	PTO Membership Deadline for Inclusion in Directory	Register <a href="#">Here</a>
Sept 17	HES PTO Philanthropy Meeting	9:30 am
Sept 25	No School	Rosh Hashanah

### TOPICS THIS WEEK

- PTO President's Message
- Principal's Message
- LRC Volunteers Wanted
- LRC Info and Summer Reading
- PTO Wall Calendars & Alternate Dismissal Pads for Sale
- Family Photo Day Fundraiser
- Weston Youth Services has fabulous fall offerings
- Weston Parks & Rec Dept has new flyers available
- Girl Scouts info
- The Weston Public Library has new children's events
- World War I Remembrance
- Emmanuel Church Fair
- Weston Swimming opens registration

## PTO & SCHOOL NEWS

### **PTO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It's been brought to my attention that last year I may have made some promises in this newsletter that I wasn't really in a position to follow through on. Like the time I suggested that we may be giving away a brand new car in order to boost attendance at PTO meetings. Or the time I followed that "promise" up with the implication that our guest speaker would be the legendary Las Vegas singer and entertainer, Mr. Wayne Newton. Or the time that I led people to believe that by signing up for PTO membership they would be eligible to receive a year's supply of Rice-A-Roni, the San Francisco treat. And finally, who can forget the time where I assured you, my loyal reader, that by volunteering for the PTO you would be eligible to drive in the HOV lane with fewer than three passengers in your car? (Certainly not the people who unsuccessfully tried it!) Over the summer I've had time to reflect upon these embellishments of the truth and realized that the only way we can have a productive writer/reader relationship is if I am perfectly candid with you. To that end, here's the straight skinny:

- I think it would be great if you went to [www.westonpspto.org](http://www.westonpspto.org) and joined the PTO.
- I think it would be equally as great if you came to our first PTO Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 9:30 am in the South House cafeteria.

"What's in it for me?" you ask. Good question. How about this:

When you join the PTO you will:

- Be placed on our email list where you will receive our weekly newsletter, The Buzz, that is chock full of information regarding happenings at Hurlbutt.
- Receive email reminders of important meetings, dates, and deadlines as they come up throughout the year.
- Be included in, and receive a complimentary copy of the Hurlbutt/WIS family directory. This is a great way to get in touch with the parents of your child's friends.
- Receive the satisfaction that comes from the fact that you are a member of the wonderful organization that we call the Hurlbutt Elementary PTO.

Not bad, eh? Well read on. When you come to our PTO Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 9:30 am in the South House cafeteria you will:

- Meet over a dozen people who make the Weston Public Schools such an amazing place. From Curriculum Instructional Leaders, to members of the Board of Education; from administrators to representatives from Weston Youth Services, this meeting is the ultimate meet and greet with the people who help shape your child's educational experience.
- Be able to partake in FREE FOOD. Seriously, we usually have coffee and fruit

and some delicious baked type items. It's all very nice.

- Learn more about the PTO, what the different roles are, and how you can contribute.
- VOTE! Our membership meetings are where we vote to approve philanthropy requests, and we need YOU there in order to do so. Also, it's a great way to learn how your efforts and contributions are directly impacting the school.
- Be eligible to receive a four day, three night vacation package including round trip airfare for two plus accommodations in our luxurious deluxe villas plus a \$100 dining credit. All you need to do is attend a 90 minute vacation ownership presentation.

I'm sorry about that last one; I just can't seem to help myself. But seriously, please consider doing these two little things and I promise that I won't ask you for anything else for the entire year. Oh boy, there I go again. I'd better quit while I'm ahead.

Thanks for reading and I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

Yours,  
Dan McNeill  
HES PTO President

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### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Dear Families,

Our students have made a great transition into the 2014-15 school year. Classes are buzzing with activity and excitement. I hope your child has come home with many stories about new friends and classroom activities. Oral storytelling is a powerful skill that supports literacy development in the primary years. When you exchange stories about your days, oral language development is significantly enhanced.

We are pleased to have so many of our students riding the bus to and from school. When students ride the bus they have time to visit with friends, and the ride provides a transitional period between home and school.

If you do drive your child to/from school, please note the following procedures:

Children should exit the car when you are safely stopped along the yellow curb. Please do not wait to pull up directly in front of the door. Our staff and security are posted along the entire circle to facilitate drop-off.

At dismissal, if your child has not exited the building after being called, staff will direct you to one of the visitor spots just beyond the traffic circle.

Rich Text Editor, editArea54501

We look forward to having you visit Hurlbutt this year to volunteer, attend a PTO meeting or a class activity. When you arrive, there are designated visitor parking spots in the entrance to the main traffic circle. The main parking lot also has designated parking spots for Hurlbutt. Please park in the white-lined spots only. The yellow-lined and green-lined spots are for senior center parking. When we have large events we will notify you of additional parking availability.

We look forward to a great year together.

Best,  
Laura Kaddis  
Principal

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**VOLUNTEER IN THE LRC: GET TO SEE KIDS AND HELP AT SAME TIME!**  
**ORIENTATION SEPT 11th**

Want a chance to interact with your kids in school when they aren't covered in frosting or hopped up on sugar?

The LRC needs your help and its a parent's DREAM volunteer job! Meet other great parents, amazing staff, adorable kids- plus you gotta LOVE those library voices!!! This is a great opportunity to see the children in their school environment and provide support for our incredible LRC.

Please join us in the LRC Thursday September 11th, from 9:00-10:00 for a brief orientation on how the book exchange works and what kind of help is needed in the LRC. It is NOT necessary that you commit to being a regular volunteer to attend the orientation! If you are interested in helping out in the library in any capacity, please come and find out how you can help. Any time you can give would be greatly appreciated by the children and the LRC staff. If you can attend the orientation please email [amymoskoff@aol.com](mailto:amymoskoff@aol.com) to rsvp, so we know how many people to expect.

The Kindergarten children will be exchanging books for 20 minutes once a week, and 1st and 2nd graders will be exchanging books for 15 minutes once a week. Depending on the number of volunteers per class, this is usually an every other week commitment.

Please sign up [here](#) or cut and paste this link:<https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=68125&org=westonpspto.org>. The LRC asks that all volunteer shifts be one hour in length. Please email Amy Moskoff at the above email with any questions.

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### **SUMMER READING**

Please send in your child's summer reading list by September 5<sup>th</sup>. We're very excited to total the number of books read over the summer and submit Hurlbutt's results to the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge program. All students who turn in a list will be entered in our raffle. Any list from any summer reading program can be submitted. Even a plain piece of paper can be used to make the list. Any student who read ten or more books can also receive a free ticket to the Sound Tigers by filling out the form and sending it to school by September 5<sup>th</sup>. Governor's Summer Reading Challenge logs and Sound Tiger ticket order forms can be found at the HES LRC Summer Reading website [Summer Reading Link](#)

### **HES LRC (Library Resource Center)**

Students have begun borrowing library books. Please help your child pick a safe place to keep LRC at home. Review the due date with your student and help them develop a plan to return books on time. More info about our circulation policies can be found at the HES LRC website under the FAQ link [HES LRC Link](#). Thanks for helping our students be safe, kind and responsible LRC patrons.

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### **PTO WALL CALENDARS FOR SALE**

PTO Wall Calendars for the Weston Public School District are available for purchase at the Fairfield County Bank, Lang's Pharmacy, and Main Office of the Hurlbutt Elementary School for \$12 each. They will also be available during Back to School Nights.

Alternate Dismissal Notes are always available for \$1 a pad with a piece of carbon paper in the Main Office. They will also be available during BTSN.

### **FAMILY PHOTO DAY FUNDRAISER**

**Date:**

Saturday, September 20  
(rain date Sunday, September 21)

**Location:**

Weston Library/Town Hall

**Sitting Fee:**

\$50 (the sitting fee will be donated to the PTO of your choice)

**Photographer Website:**

Jen Goldberg  
[www.jengoldbergphotography.com](http://www.jengoldbergphotography.com)

Approximately one week after your photo session proofs will be online. Each family will end up with 15-20 photos to choose from. You'll be able to order 5x7s or 8x10s directly online, purchase digital upload for holiday cards with Minted or Tiny Prints or meet with Jen to order other specialty items.

Limited space available!

To schedule an appointment, please [click here](#). **Sitting fee must be paid online (VISA or Mastercard) at the time you select your appointment.** Any appointment that has not been paid will be removed. Please DO NOT contact the photographer to schedule an appointment for this special offer. Your appointment must be scheduled using the form below.

Thank you!

## **AROUND TOWN**

### **WESTON YOUTH SERVICES**

**Weston Youth Services has fabulous fall offerings!**

School buses are full of children, lunch boxes are full of food, and the intersection of School & Weston Road is full of cars.... it's the start of a new school year! Although we're sad to see the end of summer, we're excited about all WYS has to offer this fall.

## **September's Focus: Study skills, styles, and stress**

Homework is a part of the daily routine for most school-aged children. Unfortunately, homework hassles are also part of the daily routine for many school-aged children *and* their parents! Children may feel pressure and stress about completing assignments, and become confused or agitated when parents try to help. And when children's emotions flare and frustration increases, it's especially hard to focus. Parents may feel similar emotions, especially when struggling to support their children and simply understand the assignment (what is new math exactly?).

Although eliminating homework hassles is probably impossible (sorry!), we do have some tips and tools that can reduce some of the stress and the struggles for both children and parents.

### **Homework helper**

**Thursday September 18th**

**12-1:30 pm**

**A light lunch will be provided!**

**Weston Town Hall Annex Conference Room (next to the Board of Education building)**

Homework is hard...and not just for the children who have to complete it. Sometimes the debate about getting homework done seems to last longer than the actual assignment! Join us for a workshop to learn some practical strategies to monitor and manage homework and keep everyone's emotions in check – no #2 pencil required!

### **Got executive function?**

**Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**7-8:30 pm**

**A light dinner will be provided**

**Weston Public Library Community Room**

Executive function is a set of cognitive processes that influence our ability to plan, organize, strategize, pay attention, remember, and manage our time. It does a body and a mind good!

Come learn about your own skills and strengths, and how they may be similar or different from your child's (or your spouse's, or your boss'...). We'll also share some strategies to enhance your own executive functioning, as well as your child's.

Michelle Albright, PhD  
Youth Services Director,  
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## **WESTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The following after school Weston Parks & Recreation flyers are now on the Town website:

Sports & Fitness, Running Club, Lulu hoops and aquatic lessons.

If you are interested in registering for these programs go to [www.westonct.gov](http://www.westonct.gov) and view the flyers.

Please follow the registration procedures as the registration dates vary.



## **GIRL SCOUTS**

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!

Visit The Weston Girl Scouts Website at <http://www.westongirlscouts.org>

Check out the new flyer: <https://leagueathletics.com/Page.asp?n=63033&org=westonpspto.org>

For questions, to sign your daughter up, or volunteer to help, please contact:

Nikki Lehman at [nikki.lehman@me.com](mailto:nikki.lehman@me.com)



## **THE WESTON LIBRARY**

### **World War I Movie & Lecture Series**

Please see the Weston Library's website at [www.westonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.westonpubliclibrary.org) for a full schedule of movies and lectures that are co-hosted by the Weston Historical Society and the Friends of the Weston Public Library during the months of September and October in addition to other events.

### **Touch-A-Truck: Sat., Sept. 13th, 10:00AM-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 and the Police Department use to keep Weston's streets safe and clean.



### **Story Hour Sign Ups: Sept. 8th-13th**

Sign up for Fall Story Hours in the Children's Room with Miss Joy from September 8th-13th. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Sorry, no phone registrations!

**2's— Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 10AM**

**3's & 4's— Tuesdays at 2PM**

### **WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE**

The Weston Historical Society and the Weston Public Library begin their remembrance of World War I, which began one hundred years ago. This series of programs begins with the documentary, *The Guns of August*, to be shown Wednesday, Sept. 3 at the Weston Public Library at 7:00 p.m.

Then, on Sunday, September 7, at 3 p.m., the Weston Historical Society opens its special World War I Remembrance Exhibition at its Museum, 104 Weston Rd. The exhibit features posters, photographs, and memorabilia, some of which were loaned to the society by community members. Students, parents, and the staff of the Weston School District are invited to join other community residents and members of the historical society.

Weston Historical Society

### **EMMANUEL CHURCH FAIR**

Emmanuel Church will host its Annual Country Fair -- 108th in its time honored tradition. The event is free, family-friendly and features good eats, deals and entertainment. Fun for all ages; held rain or shine on Saturday, September 20th from 10:00 am-4:00pm on the Church grounds, 285 Lyons Plain Road. Read more about [it here](#).

## **WESTON SWIMMING**

Welcome back!!

Now that we are in full swing and back to school, it's time to get back in the pool. Thanks to those who have already registered to swim this SC season. There is still time before we close regular registration but don't delay. Sign up now by clicking on the link below:

[https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?\\_tabid\\_=0&team=csws](https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?_tabid_=0&team=csws)

We have a terrific new young swimmer, pre-competitive group, so feel free to reach out to us for more information. You can also check out the SC flyer on our home page. Tell your friends!

We are expecting a fun, fast year of swimming. We look forward to seeing you all on the pool deck.

Lexie Proceller [lexiep@westonswimming.org](mailto:lexiep@westonswimming.org)

Register by 9/12/14 to avoid late fees. [www.westonswimming.org](http://www.westonswimming.org)