

The Hurlbutt Scoop

Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, January 24, 2013

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

[Click here for 2012-13 District Calendar](#)

February 18th – 19th – **NO SCHOOL** (February Recess)

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

January 24th Special BOE Meeting/Adoption of the Budget, 6:00pm, Weston Library

February 5th – AIM, Common Core & More, 7:00pm-8:15pm, HES North House, Rm 6

February 13th – HES PTO General Meeting, 9:30am

February 18th – Sound Tigers Winter Reading Challenge Deadline

February 25 - BOE Meeting, 7:30 pm, Weston Library

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM SARA SPAUDLING & TAMMY ROBERTS, HURLBUTT PTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Wow it is cold! How long until spring? It must be soon because budget season is upon us already. Speaking of which, the BOE has been holding budget meetings - there is a special meeting tonight at the library. If you haven't been able to make any of the budget meetings, please take a moment to read Sandy's write-up below (the budget season is when things like class sizes are discussed).

Next week is "souper bowl" here at HES - have your child wear his or her favorite football jersey and bring in a can of soup for our town food pantry. Darcy has organized and is kindly running this event for us (YAY! Thanks Darcy), please see her write-up below! Sports and Fitness for grades 1 & 2 still have room for the next session (starting next month). Next month's general PTO meeting will feature a speaker on internet safety for the kids - mark your calendars for Wednesday 2/13. Keep warm!

Sara Spaulding & Tammy Roberts
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

BOE UPDATE

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

District news: The HES principal search has begun. Weston will officially post

this position by the end of next week. Dr. Palmer expects to begin the interview process within 4 weeks of posting, with a goal of a July 1 hire. The district has assembled a list of **Outstanding Accomplishments 2011-2012**. This outlines the amazing things Weston schools and students have done over the past year. This will be distributed to local real estate agents and posted on the district website soon. It is a great reference to use when talking to people about the wonderful education available in Weston.

Mike Marotto, assistant principal of Weston High School, presented a plan to hire a school resource officer. The SRO would be an armed and fully trained Weston police officer with specialty training to fulfill the role in the school. The district will need to develop a job description detailing how this position meets the needs of Weston.

BOARD OF EDUCATION Budget 2013-2014 UPDATE

Details from each budget presented can be found on the district website at <http://www.weston12-ct.org/page.cfm?p=4866>.

The district presented its budget request for the upcoming school year to the Board of education. Dr. Palmer is proposing a 1.55% increase over this year's budget. This would bring the budget to \$46,293,668, a \$706,476 difference.

Dr. Palmer spoke about Safeguarding our Students' Future and Managing Change in a Time of Transformation. Her budget took the following into consideration.

- How we ensure safe and secure schools for our students after December 2012
- What we teach is changing – Common Core
- How we teach is changing – Blended Learning
- How we assess is changing – CMT and CAPT to be replaced in 2015
- How we measure teacher and administrator effectiveness is changing – July 2013, state law

Dr. Palmer's most significant recommendation was for additional leadership support. The district would like to add an Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education.

Throughout the four schools' budget presentations, class size was discussed. Both Dr. Palmer and the Principals assured the BOE that class sizes will be examined continually over the next few months to make sure class sizes have the ability to grow after the increased enrollment this year after the September start date. A few grades at both HES and WIS were approaching

district upper guideline for class size – these numbers will be monitored closely.

HES budget highlights: \$2,913,703 represents a proposed 0.72% increase Dr. Cicchetti's discussed the school's accomplishments which include the implementation of full-day Kindergarten, AIM Initiative in grades 1 & 2, Math in Focus K-2, the NWEA Adaptive Assessment, PBIS and safety improvements. Also noted was a drop in enrollment of 36 students, the majority of which is in first grade, this contributes to the staffing reduction of one teacher.

The Board Meeting for Adoption of the Budget will take place January 24, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Library Meeting Room

Sandra Hart, sandy@sundial.com
BOE Representative

SOUPER-BOWL – JANUARY 31ST AND FEBRUARY 1ST

The PTO is organizing our annual "Souper Bowl" canned soup drive to benefit the Weston Food Pantry. Students may wear their favorite football team jersey and bring in a can of soup that will be collected in each classroom. All collections will be delivered to the Weston Food Pantry. For more information contact Darcy Barrera, Community Services Chair at D.Barrera@outlook.com.

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK

Order your 2012-2013 Hurlbutt Yearbook NOW! The yearbook includes photos from all grades and will be in full color again this year. It is a great memento of your child's year at HES! The cost of the yearbook is \$22.00 and the first deadline which offers the lowest price is Friday, March 15th. So please order today do not delay! The next deadline to order is Friday, April 5th and the price for the yearbook at that time will be HIGHER. The EASIEST AND MOST EFFICIENT way to order is directly through Coffee Pond's online ordering system.

To order and pay online:

- Log on to www.coffeepond.com
- Go to "Place an Order" and click on "Yearbooks"
- Enter School Password: yearbook
- Check the box "On-Line Order"
- Follow instructions and place your order

To mail in your order:

- Log on to www.coffeepond.com
- Go to "Place an Order" and click on "Yearbooks"
- Enter School Password: yearbook
- Check the box "Mail-In Order"
- Follow instructions and mail in your order

Please contact Samantha Leuzzi, samhleuzzi@gmail.com, with any questions.

* If you would like to have your yearbook personalized, Coffee Pond will charge you an extra \$10.

INTERNET SAFETY FOR OUR KIDS

Don't Miss Sergeant Brodacki on Internet Safety for our Kids - You won't want to miss this meeting!

Please join us at 9:30am on Wednesday, February 13th for the joint HES/WIS PTO meeting in the Hurlbutt South House Cafeteria. Sergeant Brodacki from the Weston Police Department will be joining us to speak on internet safety.

Our children are very comfortable with all the technology out there today as they are growing up with it and have known nothing else. However, are they digitally wise? Do they understand the implications of what they do on the internet, when they send a photo from their phone, when they post something on Facebook? A comfort level on skills does not always equal wisdom.

Sergeant Brodacki works in computer forensics and can help us become more informed and in turn help our children stay safer on the internet.

Joint HES/WIS PTO Meeting
2/13/2013
9:30am
HES South House Cafeteria

SOUND TIGERS WINTER READING CHALLENGE - WINTER READING PROGRAM

Read 4 (four) books and receive a complimentary ticket to the Sound Tigers March 2nd game. All books must be read by February 18th. Reading log must be completed and mailed directly to the Sound Tigers. [Click here](#) for more information and to download the form.

JANUARY 2013 NUTRITION NEWS

[Click here](#) for the January 2013 edition of the Nutrition News.

Jill Patterson RD, Resident Dietitian
Chartwells School Dining Services

HURLBUTT 2012-13 YEARBOOK

We're busy preparing for the 2012-2103 yearbook. Of course, we need your help. We are looking for photos from last year's Mother's Day concert, Field Day and Flag Day concerts. We will also be asking for pictures from the first day of school, field trips, class parties, family fun night, recess and any other specials that take place.

Please make sure that these are high resolution photos. You have two options for sending your pictures. You can send them directly to samhleuzzi@gmail.com or you can upload directly to the Hurlbutt 2012-2013 Shutterfly share site. Please email samhleuzzi@gmail.com to be added to the share site.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Sam Leuzzi at samhleuzzi@gmail.com or Melissa Chesman at mhchesman@gmail.com

NEW PTO WEBSITE

The Weston PTO's have joined together and launched a single District PTO website, www.westonpspto.org. The home page of this new website contains information relevant to all four PTO and each PTO has its own tab with information relevant to that PTO. It's important to remember that any online sign-up and RSVP forms for Hurlbutt will be listed under the HES PTO tab. If you have any comments or feedback relating to the new site please email westonpspto@gmail.com.

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.

AROUND TOWN

[Click here for School Flyers & Around Town Info on our website!](#)

WESTON LITTLE LEAGUE

Registration for our Spring 2013 programs is open! We have programs for kindergarten through 7th grade. Please visit our website for more information and to register online, www.westonll.com.

WESTON LACROSSE

The Weston Lacrosse Club, now in our 15th season, is very pleased to welcome all new and experienced boys & girls lacrosse players in grades 2-8. The spring season runs from mid March to mid June and provides age/grade based programs for all skill levels. Please go to the online registration section of our website for all program details and fees.

Don't delay, signup today - registration closes January 31, 2013!

WINTER FARMERS MARKET AT NORFIELD GRANGE!

Open for the 2012-2013 Season! Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Norfield Grange, 12 Good Hill Road, Weston, CT 06883, www.norfieldgrange.com.

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION – ADULT & CHILDREN PROGRAM

[Click here](#) for information on Weston Parks & Recreation programs for children and adults! You'll find flyers on each program, registration dates and fees.

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

Weston Youth Services would like to remind parents and students that our Winter WOW! programs began the week of January 14th! If you haven't registered and would like to, please visit our website at www.westonyouthservices.org to view any of our open programs.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - Free!

Musical Program with David Connell

Sunday, January 27 at 2:00 PM

FREE SWAP & SHOP EXCHANGE PAGE

For Sale, For Free and Wanted Items for Sale. Have something to sell or giveaway but can't deal with Craigs List or Ebay? **[Click here](#)** to view, **[click here](#)** to advertise for free.

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!

- *All write-ups should be in WORD format and the content should be print-ready,*
- *If you have a flyer, please submit a brief write-up and we will attach the flyer to the newsletter,*
- *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,*
- *The email address for the Scoop is hesptoscoop@gmail.com*

Thank you for your support and cooperation.