

The Hurlbutt Scoop
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, October 18, 2012

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

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

November 6th – NO SCHOOL (K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences)

November 21st-23rd – NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Recess)

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

October 15th-19th – Charity Coin Drive

October 16th to 19th – Run for Life, 7:50-8:15am, South House Field

October 24th – Visiting Author David Schwartz

November 5th to 9th – Hurlbutt Book Fair

November 15th – Family Fun Night, 5:30pm, HES Cafeteria (RSVP Required)

November 19th – School Photo Re-take Day

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

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

Hi everyone - there is still time tomorrow morning to get out for Run for Life and add some laps to the class of your choice! Send in some spare change for the coin drive our book fair chairs set up (it is such a great cause!). Next week we will have visiting author David Schwartz in - I am looking forward to hearing all about it from my first grader. Kristin Matousek has set up our first Family Fun Night for November 5th - sign ups will be online in November (it sounds pretty cool with drum circles and crafts). I attended the Board of Ed meeting this week and there was a discussion about reclaiming South House space for us and allowing town to use parts of North House (with the projected smaller grade cohorts, it has been suggested that having the school reclaim the more centralized South House areas with the in-class bathrooms may be a better use of space). The proposed plan would include separate entrances and securely closed off spaces for the school and town. Sandy has provided a great write up on the meeting below; there will be further discussion about this topic at November's BOE meeting. Lastly, our fabulous book fair chairs have an AMAZING event set for us - if you have anytime at all to help out, I know they (and the kids) would love to have you, so please sign up on line.

Sara Spaulding & Tammy Roberts
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2012

[Click here](#) for a copy of Dr. Michael Cicchetti's October 2012 Newsletter.

BOE UPDATE

HES highlights:

The comprehensive work presented by Dr. Donald Kennedy of the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) suggests that Weston will see a declining enrollment, mostly attributed to smaller cohorts entering kindergarten. As the BOE prepares to develop a budget for 2013-2014, this work will guide the district in its planning, specifically regarding the use of space. It is unlikely the district would be able to close a school building, therefore it is looking at changes that are logical. HES was designed specifically for the youngest learners currently housed in that building, e.g. classrooms have bathrooms attached to the room as well as sinks within the room for hand washing. Therefore, moving these students to another building would not be advisable at this time. Dr. Palmer discussed the following preliminary ideas regarding facility usage for 2013-2014 school year:

- • Allocate available space not needed for educational programs for use by the Town
- • Relocate the Senior Center from South House to the 1st floor of North House and revert current Senior Center space to classroom/educational space
- • Study the enrollment projections and capacity at WIS to decide if and when it would be appropriate to move grade 2 over to WIS.
- • Moving grade 2 to WIS for 2013-2014 would create undue stress on space in WIS and provide limited flexibility should grades 2,3, & 5 each gain a few more students (each are approaching the class size limit)
- • The town is currently undertaking a traffic study to make the newly proposed Senior Center space more accessible to the seniors but separated from the children.
- • For more detail please refer to Dr. Palmer's letter to parents regarding Use of Facilities for 2013-2014. [Click here](#) to download a copy.

At the meeting, Dr. Cicchetti discussed some of the interesting programs at HES this year:

- • Math in Focus - First and second grade teachers participated in a half-day Math in Focus training session with a consultant to provide ongoing support for implementation of this new math program.
- • The Literacy Unit Development - Based on the Common Core State Standards and the implementation of Reader's and Writer's Workshop in kindergarten, teachers reviewed and critiqued their recent "Literacy Launch" and developed future units.
- • AIM (Academic Innovation and Measurement) - Teachers of first grade science, health, physical education, world languages, music, art, special education and support teachers planned new units to assess and measure 21st century skills in this important, ongoing initiative undertaken in collaboration with Columbia Teachers College.
- • Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a school-wide initiative designed to reinforce positive behaviors and decrease negative behaviors to improve school climate and student academic achievement. The Hurlbutt School community expects the following of everyone in all school settings: **Be Safe...Be Kind...Be Responsible**. Behavioral expectations specific to each setting are

taught explicitly to all students during the first few weeks of school. Expected behavior receives positive reinforcement throughout each day.

Please take a moment and read a more detailed summary of what is happening at HES as well as in all 4 schools:

http://www.westonps.org/uploaded/NEWS_and_ANNOUNCEMENTS/October_2012_District_Update.pdf

Other highlights:

Five Weston student have been recognized as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists this year. They are among 16,000 students nationwide to become semifinalists after passing the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test, taken by 1.5 million then-juniors across the nation. Additionally, 11 WHS students WHS have been named National Merit Commended Scholars. Nationally, there are about 34,000 Commended Scholars each year, chosen from the high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT.

SAT/ACT

Weston public schools continue to have a strong academic record and is the #1 reason why families move to Weston. 97% of the WHS graduating class was accepted to a higher education program; 92% at a 4 year college and 5% at a 2 year or PG program. 22% of the Class of 2012 was accepted to colleges and universities defined as "most competitive." Newsweek ranked the high school as the No. 1 high school in Fairfield County and No. 2 in the state; The combined SAT scores were 1,794, with an average of 608 in Writing, 597 in Math, and 589 in Critical Reading. The ACT scores were 26.3 with 27.1 in English, 25.9 in Math, 26.4 in Reading and a 25.2 in Science. 210 students took 474 AP exams in 18 subjects, with 94% receiving a 3 or higher.

Sandy Hart, sandy@sundial.com

BOE Representative

RUN FOR LIFE - OCTOBER 15TH THRU OCTOBER 19TH

Dear Parents and Students,

Our annual Run for Life program at Hurlbutt will take place from **October 15th through October 19th**. All students in grades 1 and 2 will participate in this walk-jog-run event during their physical education classes. The children will earn a point for their class for every lap of the South House field they complete. The class with the most laps at the end of the week will have a star with their teacher's name placed on the Run for Life banner for their grade level. The banner will be proudly displayed in their classroom for the rest of the year.

Our goal is to demonstrate to our students the positive effects of aerobic exercise on their mental alertness, emotional well-being and cardiovascular fitness. To achieve this goal we would like to invite parents, students and friends to walk-jog-run with us on the **South House field before school from (7:50 -8:15) on Tuesday, October 16th, Wednesday, October 17th, Thursday, October 18th and Friday, October 19th**. We will not walk the morning of Monday October 15th. Your laps will be tallied at

the end of the morning and added to your child's class count.

It is important students wear sneakers or bring sneakers to school for this activity. Please do not bring your dogs. If you have any questions please call Wyatt Hallgren at 291-1444. We look forward to seeing you later this month when we all join together to support walking, jogging and running as lifetime activities.

Thank you,
Wyatt Hallgren and Kim Kus
Physical Education Staff

HURLBUTT ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Send your spare change this week! Charity Coin Drive & Book Fair 2012

The annual Hurlbutt Elementary School Book Fair will be November 5-9. Our theme this year is ALL-STAR BOOK FAIR: EVERY READER IS A STAR! This year, we will be featuring a rewarding new element to the fair – A CHARITY COIN DRIVE! We are asking students to bring in any spare change each day this week, October 15-19. The coin drive (which will also be happening at the actual fair) will go towards the purchase of books for the Norwalk Pediatric Care Unit at Norwalk Hospital and Yale New Haven Pediatric Unit at Bridgeport Hospital. In addition, in exchange for every dollar we raise, Scholastic will donate a book to the national organizations: Kids in Need Foundation and Kids in Distressed Situations. Books donated will benefit children enduring natural disasters as well as inner cities and rural areas with literacy needs throughout the U.S. Our efforts will hopefully result in hundreds of books being donated.

We will be offering you the opportunity to purchase Hurlbutt dollars for your 1st & 2nd grade child/children in advance, online, starting October 15, ending October 26 in order to purchase books at the fair. Please [click here](#) to purchase Hurlbutt dollars. Dollars will be distributed to students via their teachers the week of the fair.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to help out with setup, decorating, selling, and more. Please [click here](#) to volunteer to help at the Book Fair.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT, NOVEMBER 15 – HOLD THE DATE

AFRIKAN DRUM CIRCLE AND CRAFTS with internationally acclaimed drummer

Kojo Bey of Sounds of Afrika. 5:30pm – 7:00pm, Thursday, November 15th, Hurlbutt Elementary School Cafeteria

On-line sign-up coming in November! [Click here](#) for full details.

8 Volunteers needed to work craft tables at Family Fun Night. Please contact Kristin at kmatouse@optonline.net if you are able to help. It is easy and fun. Volunteers need to arrive in cafeteria at 5:00 on November 15th.

PHOTO RETAKE DAY – NOVEMBER 19TH

Photos taken during Photo Day will be delivered in your child's backpack during the first half of November. If your child was absent during Photo Day, or if you wish to retake your child's photo, HES's PHOTO RETAKE DAY will be on **Monday, November 19, 2012!** Mark your calendars!

HURLBUTT 2012-13 YEARBOOK

Believe it or not, we have already starting 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

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

SCARE FAIR 2012

A family partnership fundraising event to support Weston Girl Scouts and Girl Scouts of Connecticut. Saturday, October 27th, Noon to 4:00PM, Weston Historical Society, 104 Weston Road, Weston, CT (Rain Date: Sunday, October 28th). [Click here](#) for flyer.

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION

[Click here](#) for information on the Fall 2012 programs being offered; Sports & Fitness, Dancercise, Swimming & Diving and Adult Programs. Many programs still have openings.

KINDERGARTEN DAISY GIRL SCOUT

If you're interested in being a kindergarten daisy girl scout there are openings. Please contact Mary Fiore at jmfiore@aol.com.

WESTON SENIOR CENTER ANNUAL RE-GIFT SALE

Monday November 26th-Thursdays November 29th, 10:00-2:00pm. Please gather up any new or un-used items from your home. to donate to our sale. We are currently accepting donations! Please tell your friends to donate items too. Come shop at our sale, beginning November 26th at 10am. 100% of proceeds go to the Weston Senior Center.

TICKET AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE WMSPTO & LIBRARY PROJECT

Demi Lovato and Jonas Brother Tickets auctioned off to benefit WMS PTO & Library Project!

Number 1:

Do you want to be the world's BEST PARENTS? Do you need an awesome holiday gift? Then here you go – Concert package will include four house tickets for a Demi Lovato headline tour date in the northeast, VIP sound check party (if there is one), and a meet and greet!

Just so you come off hip, Demi is one of the hosts on the current X Factor and you should know her hot songs of the moment are "Give your Heart a Break" and "Skyscraper"!

Date to be determined based on their touring schedule coming up.

Donation from:
Demi Lovato Touring

Total value: Priceless
Starting bid: \$1,000

Number 2:

Do you want to make your daughter scream, hyperventilate, sweet and just plain adore you?! Yes, then here you go – Concert package will include four house tickets for a Jonas Brothers headline tour date in the northeast, VIP sound check party (if there is one), and a meet and greet!

Date to be determined based on their touring schedule coming up.

Donation from: Priceless
Jonas Brothers Touring

Total value: Priceless
Starting bid: \$1,000

How this will work: if you are interested in bidding, please send Dawn Egan an email and a bid quote at jdweston@optonline.net. If there is a bid higher than yours, you will be notified. Bidding will end on Monday morning, October 29th at 9:00am promptly. Any questions, please do not hesitate to call 203-221-9114. All donations will be held in escrow until event happens.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WESTON LIBRARY

Here is a preview of the programs we are presenting at the library in October. All are free and open to the public and reservations are not required.

- Thursday Morning Book Club - The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach - Thursday, October 11th at 10:30 AM
- Feature Movie Night - Dark Shadows (PG-13) - Wednesday, October 17th at 7 PM
- Wednesday Evening Book Club - The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grisson - Wednesday, October 17th at 7:30 PM
- Piano Concert - Sunday, October 14th 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. A piano concert called Vienna! featuring Matthew Harrison and Vlada Yaneva will take place in the Community room on Sunday, October 14th. They will perform piano pieces from Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Friedman-Garener, Godowsky and Brahms.
- Lunch and Learn - Self Publishing and Memoir Writing - Thursday, October 25th at Noon. Marcelle Soviero is coming to speak at the library on "Self-Publishing and Memoir Writing" Marcelle is from Wilton and has been published both online and in print publications.
- Animal Embassy - Halloween Creatures & Critters - Saturday, October 27th 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Join Animal Embassy at the library for this special Halloween program. You will learn about the origins of fear, while meeting incredible live Animal Ambassadors. We will discuss predators such as wolves and bears, and discover how snakes, spiders and scorpions look from the inside out. We'll turn fear into respect and appreciation by learning about animal behavior and appearance. Participants will hear myths and legends surrounding some of these amazing animals, while meeting a diversity of creatures such as a Pink-toed tarantula, an Emperor scorpion, a Sinaloan Milk snake, a Boa constrictor and perhaps a Spectacled owl! Recommended for children over the age of four.

Please visit www.westonpubliclibrary.org for a full listing of events.

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**](mailto:hesptoscoop@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support and cooperation.