

The Hurlbutt Scoop
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, November 29, 2012

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

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

December 12th – EARLY DISMISSAL (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
December 13th – 90-MINUTE DELAYED OPENING (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
December 24th – January 1st – SCHOOL CLOSED (Winter Recess)

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

December 3rd – 7th – HES Book Fair
December 10th - Incoming Kindergarten Registration Meeting, 7:00 PM
December 11th - Incoming Kindergarten Registration Meeting, 9:00 AM

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

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

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! It's hard to believe that we are moving into the holiday season (where did the fall go?!). One of my favorite holiday traditions at Hurlbutt is the Evergreen Basket project: the baskets go to families in need and it is a wonderful way to give back and to let our children have the experience of sharing their good fortune. I want to thank Darcy and all of the parents who have so graciously volunteered to run the charity this year! It's FINALLY here - next week is the Book Fair (the kids just love this event)! If you have time, please think about helping out by taking a shift (Amy, Christina, Pam and Elana have set up an amazing fair this year!!!). They will be having Donuts with Dads before school one day and will have teacher wish lists - I am looking forward to seeing all of the kids there.

Have a great weekend,

Sara Spaulding & Tammy Roberts
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2012

[Click here](#) to read Dr. Michael Cicchetti's November 2012 newsletter.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Monday, November 19, 2012 Weston Public Library Meeting Room 7:30 p.m.

District News:

- Dr Palmer recognized the Weston 2012-2013 Teacher the Year - Storm Snaith
- Weston High School PTO donated \$5,000 to the Weston Board of Education to go towards the Weston High School Theater lighting project

- The Connecticut State Department has nominated Weston High School to be recognized as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School. We are one of four schools out of 1600 in Connecticut to receive this nomination. A Connecticut High School has not been nominated in eight years. WHS is now in the process of completing the application for the U.S. Department of Education and will be notified in the Spring.
- Dr. Palmer congratulated the town on Hurricane Sandy outreach and services provided

Proposed Shared Space with Town at Hurlbutt Elementary School

Why is the District considering space with the Town at this time?

The Town has current facilities needs and, with declining enrollment over the past few years that is projected to continue in the future, the District has underutilized space. It makes sense to work hand-in-hand with the Town to utilize resources effectively. Allocating some District space to Town needs reduces the overall financial burden to the entire community. Any plan to share District space would be designed so there is no negative impact to the educational program of the District.

For 2013-14 - the District is looking to give up first floor classroom space of the North House. Special locked doors will be installed to separate the senior center from the students. The elevators, although outside the locked doors, will be available to any child unable to use the stairs safely. Grade 2 will continue to use the second floor of North House until 2015-16. The gymnasium will become a shared space with the seniors - but accessed on different days than the children will use it. The multi-purpose room will be used for gym class once grade 2 goes to WIS. The Board of Education intends to vote on this issue at its December meeting.

When would all of this shift in space occur?

2015-16 is the projected date that grade 2 would move to WIS. At that point, it is projected that there would be fewer than 500 students in WIS, which is built for 700+ students. With grade 2 relocating from HES to WIS, the entire North House would be available for use by the District and Town as administrative spaces.

If grade 2 moves to WIS, what is the impact on more students for specials in WIS and safety issues at WIS for all these students?

If second grade students are relocated to WIS, then all supporting staff and educational materials are also moved there. The school has adequate resources and facilities to support the total enrollment estimated with grade two in 2015-16 at approximately 600 students. The school was constructed for 700+ students. If grade two transitions to WIS, there will be thoughtful planning on how to support those students and staff during the transition.

How do these changes improve the education of our children?

The effective use of both District and Town resources on infrastructure preserves more resources for the operation of our organizations. By moving grade 2 to WIS, HES would then have pre K, K, and grade 1 - with an estimated enrollment of 250 students. At that time, the district would eliminate the position of assistant principal to reflect the needs of the declining enrollment. Reducing administrative costs provides more flexibility to provide direct resources to classrooms.

Does this generate revenue for our school?

The District has housed the Town Senior Center in HES going on seven years and has paid for all expenses to operate the Senior Center over this period of time. With the shift to the Town possibly having more shared space on campus, the direct expenses for cleaning, utilities, etc. will be transferred to the Town from the BOE budget, reflecting a true accounting of how the funds are being allocated. The Strategic Plan for the District also calls for exploration of entrepreneurial initiatives to generate revenue in other ways as well. The goal is to keep our budgets as low as possible, while never compromising the quality of education.

Who covers the capital improvement cost of space by the Senior Center?

The Town would appropriate funds through the budget process for capital expenditures.

Safeguards in place if enrollment increases -

If Weston gets a large influx of students, dramatically altering the enrollment, the space can be re-allocated to student needs. The space is not being given to the town permanently.

Public comment - parent concerns:

1) We are staunchly opposed to Town offices on District property. Why is it being considered?

Currently, there are both District and Town offices housed in the Annex building, a set of portable classrooms that were built to house our kindergartners prior to WIS construction. These retrofitted spaces work extremely well for offices for both the District and Town and create no issues of conflict with our school operations. The Annex was constructed as a temporary building, and it is nearing the end of its useful life. It also costs \$80,000+ per year to operate. Looking to the future, when the District has other space that is not needed for educational purposes, it makes fiscal sense for both the District and Town to utilize existing resources. If the Town were required to build new facilities, this debt would place a burden on funding operating budgets of both the Town and District. While the Town and District are very much separated in terms of formal operations and budgets, for all intents and purposes the two are inextricably linked. The North House of HES was identified as a logical facility to use for administrative needs, given it was originally constructed as a free-standing building from the other parts of HES and can be again easily partitioned off from HES, creating two distinct zones of operations that will not intrude on school operations.

2) Were other buildings looked at as possible homes for the administrative offices?

WHS- it will be more than a decade before the lower enrollment impacts the high school.

WMS -will begin to see a swing space within 5 years- but due to the school's design, other educational ventures would be more successful than office space.

WIS -state of the art facility and as such should be fully utilized as teaching space.

For more information please refer to the PDF sent by Dr. Palmer on 11/20 regarding the issue of future shared space at HES presented at the Board of Education meeting on 11/19. Video of the Board of Education meeting will be posted on the district website. It will also be aired on Channel 78. The superintendent's blog also summarizes the issues discussed <http://www.westonps.org/page.cfm?p=4264>

School Calendar 2012-13 Tweaked Due to Storm Impact

The Board of Education has adopted several minor revisions as proposed by the administration to assist with the smooth completion of the remainder of the school year.

The revisions include:

- Wednesday, December 12, early dismissal for professional development [already on school calendar] will now be used for K-5 parent-teacher conferences.
- Thursday, December 13, will be a 90-minute delay - to provide additional time for conferences.
- The last two days of our school year, whenever those fall, will both be early dismissal for the district. The last day was already scheduled as an early dismissal.
- The district will safeguard April vacation for families and staff and use the days at the end of the school year in June for future make-up days.

2013-14 school calendar to be voted on in December

- August 26 -1st day of school -full week
- November -The Board wants more data regarding attendance on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving - before finalizing it as an additional day off
- January- additional day off added to MLK weekend
- February - 2 days off for President's Day
- June 6 -projected last day of school

The Board acknowledged that information is being communicated but not received by all. The Board is looking at ways to improve the communication process.

Sandra Hart, sandy@sundial.com

BOE Representative

CHARTWELL SCHOOL LUNCH SURVEY

Dear School Lunch Student or Parent,

For everyone who buys school lunch, thank you. For everyone who has not bought lunch, we would like to hear from you too! In order to ensure that our products continue to meet the expectations of parents and students, we would like to invite you to share your thoughts about your lunch program and assist us in determining "what is next".

Please go to the link below for a brief survey addressing aspects of our school lunch program. The survey is designed to take less than five (5) minutes. All responses will be kept confidential and be used only to develop the food service program.

The survey link for the Elementary School Lunch program is:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Chartwells_Elementary_Lunch_Survey

The survey link for High School and Middle School lunch programs is:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Chartwells_HS-MS_Lunch_Survey

Thank you!

Andre Santelli, FMP - Director of Culinary Services

Jill Patterson, RD - Resident Dietitian

BOOK FAIR 2012 – NEXT WEEK!!

The annual Hurlbutt Elementary School Book Fair will be held December 3-7, 2012. Our theme this year is ALL-STAR BOOK FAIR: EVERY READER IS A STAR! We have a week filled with books and fun - your child will be visiting the book fair with his or her class. Parents and families (and the public) can drop in anytime during the fair's open hours. We will have special mornings for Moms and Dads – stop by, grab a muffin/donut, coffee, and chat with fellow HES moms and dads. Also, there will be raffle prizes every day!

When:

Monday - Friday, December 3 – 7

Monday, Dec. 3: 8 am - 4:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 4: 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, MUFFINS FOR MOM from 7:30 - 9:30 am

Wednesday, Dec. 5: 8 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 6: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm, DONUTS FOR DAD from 7:30 - 9:30 am

Friday, Dec. 7: 8 am – 12 pm

Where: At Hurlbutt Elementary School, South House Multi-Purpose Room, follow the signs.

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

EVERGREEN GIFT BASKETS!

Hurlbutt and Weston Intermediate schools bring holiday cheer to families in need! Starting this week, students and their families will be asked to consider a donation of a holiday gift and a food item for the Evergreen Network families in the greater Bridgeport area. These families income levels are 200% below the poverty level and would likely not have a holiday meal nor a gift if not for our help. We will also provide some food staples for the children as they usually rely on breakfast and lunch at school, but won't receive those meals during school break. Donations are being collected at the schools November 30th - December 14th.

If you would like more information or would like to make a donation please contact Darcy Barrera at d.barrera@outlook.com, Hurlbutt PTO Community Services or Meg Lawrence, meglaw91@gmail.com or Debra Crespi, debra_crespi@hotmail.com, Weston Intermediate PTO Community Services.

THANK YOU TO THE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of the volunteers for making both School Photo Day and Retake Day

this year a great success! Your help was greatly appreciated.

To all HES parents: If you have any questions regarding your package or the portraits, please contact Coffee Pond Photography at 800-632-2323 ext. 0.

Shirley Hwang, shwang01@yahoo.com

INNISBROOK GIFT WRAP HAS ARRIVED!

The gift wrap is in and arranged alphabetically on the stage in the South House Cafeteria.

If you have any questions please contact Eliza Tabacchi at elizatabacchi@yahoo.com.

NUTRITION NEWS

[Click here](#) for the December 2012 edition of the Nutrition News.

Jill Patterson RD, Resident Dietitian
Chartwells School Dining Services

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

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Just a reminder, preparations for the kindergarten class of 2013-2014 are already

underway. Children who will turn five years of age on or before January 1, 2014 are eligible to begin kindergarten next fall.

This year, we will be holding parent informational meetings for all eligible kindergarteners. These will take place in Hurlbutt Elementary School's South House Cafeteria on Monday, December 10, 2012 at 7:00PM, and Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 9:00AM. Dr. Michael Cicchetti, Hurlbutt Elementary School Interim Principal, and Mrs. Meg Sullivan, School Counselor, will be facilitating both programs.

Registration packets can be obtained in any of the following ways:

Your child's current preschool
On the district website, www.westonps.org
Hurlbutt Elementary School main office
Kindergarten informational meetings

Please bring the completed registration packet, along with copies of proof of residency (telephone, gas or electric bill), and your child's birth certificate to the parent meeting. You will need all of these documents to register your child.

Should you have questions, or need registration materials, please call the Hurlbutt main office at (203) 291-1446.

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!](#)

WINTER FARMERS MARKET AT NORFIELD GRANGE!

Opens for the 2012-2013 Season! Saturday, December 1, 2012, 10 AM to 2 PM, Norfield Grange, 12 Good Hill Road, Weston, CT 06883

On Saturday, December 1 from 10AM to 2PM the Winter Farmers Market at Norfield Grange at 12 Good Hill Road in Weston will have its first farmers market of the 2012-2013 season The farmers market has become a weekly social gathering for friends and families in the Weston and surrounding communities, as well as visitors from afar. The grange is an indoor, heated venue.

To celebrate opening day, the Winter Farmers Market at Norfield Grange will host Runabout Farms, with a petting zoo and pony rides for children of all ages. Animals will be at the farmers market this Saturday from 10am until 2pm offering rides, snuggles, and taking pictures with their fans. Kids and adults are invited to stop by, meet the animals, and ask questions about the farm and animal rescue. [Click here](#) for more information.

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION – WINTER 2012 PROGRAMS.

[Click here](#) for information on Winter 2013 programs being offered; Sports & Fitness, Dancercise, Peanut Basketball, American Red Cross Swim Classes, Weston Youth Wrestling and more!

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

Weston Youth Services is excited to announce its Winter 2013 WOW! After school programs for students in Grades K-2 at Hurlbutt Elementary School. With most of our fall programs returning this winter, coupled with some new and exciting classes, there's sure to be something for everyone!

Mark your calendars! Online registration begins on Tuesday, December 4th at 12:01 a.m. Classes are scheduled to begin the week of January 14th.

A complete course description may be viewed at www.westonyouthservices.org

POSSIBLE KINDERGARTEN T-BALL TRAINING

Mondays "or" Wednesday Starting week of January 7th. "Day of the week will be determined on max interest." Session will only run either Monday "or" Wednesday; location Hurlbutt Gym, 1.5 hour sessions (4:30-6:00pm), 5-week program* (gym closed 1/14-28).

Just like last year, skills training for our young baseball players is being offered. This training takes into account various levels of ability and will help players of all levels develop and "stay sharp" over the winter months. Inclement Weather: if a session cancelled due to snow/ice we'll make every effort to find a make-up date.

The gym will be divided into sections separated by ability to maximize experience and development. Fundamental core skills training and development: Throwing - Fielding - Catching - Pitching - Hitting/Bunting. Independent professional coaches will work with groups of approx. 14 kids (divided into groups of 7) during each weekly session.

Any questions: e-mail Seve Esposito, Director, Player Development, Weston Little League at g.esposito@zundagroup.com.

WESTON SENIOR CENTER ANNUAL RE-GIFT SALE

Monday November 26th-Thursday 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.

WESTON BOY SCOUT TROOP 788 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Pre-Order your holiday evergreens. Buying your Holiday Season evergreens from Troop 788 is Convenient & Easy! Order and pay online: www.westontroop788.org. We have Trees & Wreaths for sale. Pick up is the first two weekends in December, Dec. 1, 2 & 8, 9, anytime between 10 - 3 pm. Any questions, please contact Tammy Roberts, troberts@emailcorner.net.

Time to Purchase Your Luminary Kits to benefit the Center for Hope!

The Center for Hope and Den for Grieving Kids, an organization which provides support to those in our community who are affected by critical illness, the loss of a loved one or other life altering circumstances, has kicked off its annual luminary campaign. Hope Lights Lives is a holiday tradition where neighbors create a "community of light" by purchasing luminaries and lining their front yards with them one evening in December to show support for friends and neighbors who are facing difficult times in their lives. This year's luminary lighting will be held on December 16th at 5 p.m. Please consider purchasing a kit for \$25 which makes 12 luminaries. Please contact Tammy Roberts troberts@emailcorner.net to find out the name of your block captain or to sign up to become a captain for your own block OR Anne [Troxell](mailto:troxell@optonline.net) troxellanne@optonline.net to purchase a luminary kit directly.

WHS PTO PIE SALE FUNDRAISER

The WHS PTO is offering a wide assortment of Sweet and Savory Pies and Delicious Breads and Cookies shipped direct from GRANDMA MILLER'S BAKERY in Vermont Plus Kelly's Four Plustm Granolas in a variety of flavors. [Click here](#) for the flyer.

WESTON COMMUNITY HOLIDAY CONCERT

[Click here](#) for more information. If you or your child would like to join the choir, please contact Founder4life@gmail.com or call Cobb's Mill Inn and ask for Elayne, 203-227-7221.

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.