

The Hurlbutt Scoop
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, December 6, 2012

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

December 6th - 7th HES Book Fair (*Last two days*)
December 10th - Incoming Kindergarten Registration Meeting, 7:00 PM
December 11th - Incoming Kindergarten Registration Meeting, 9:00 AM
December 11th - HES Shared Space Meeting, 7:00pm, SH Cafeteria

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

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

Hi everyone,

Don't forget that next week has two schedule changes for conferences: an all district early dismissal on Wednesday and a 90 minute late start for k-5 on Thursday (it is not the usual 2 hour delay - I have to keep reminding myself so I don't wind up out at the bus a half an hour too late!). There will not be a General PTO meeting because of the early release. I also want to remind everyone that Dr. Palmer will be holding a parent meeting to discuss the North House space issue on Tuesday night in the South House cafeteria.

The book fair is up and running through tomorrow. If you haven't already, drop by and take a peek. Amy, Elana, Christina and Pam have done such a wonderful job this year (they have managed it so smoothly even though we had to move the dates and rearrange it all) - all of their hard work really shows in the amazing event they are putting on for us! I would like to say thank you to all of you who came in to help them run the fair too, we simply could not have these events without all of you guys who come in to lend a hand. There were so many parents who came in to help the kids find books and make lists even when their own children's classes weren't there: it reminded me once again what a dynamic, giving parent base we have and makes me grateful to live here.

EVERGREEN BASKET DEADLINE IS MONDAY! If you would like to participate in the donations (even if you would only like to send in one item), please send them in (or drop them off) by Monday. This charity is a completely voluntary event. I would like to thank Darcy for bravely running the event solo this year and for all of you who have kindly volunteered to run the classrooms. I know that the baskets will truly make a difference in people's holidays. I also am grateful for the opportunity for my children to experience the act of sharing their good fortune.

Tammy and I want to wish all of you celebrating this weekend a very, very happy Hanukkah!

Sara Spaulding & Tammy Roberts
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL CICHETTI, INTERIM PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing with a few important reminders and requests, some of which were included in the November Principal's Newsletter.

Conference Days: To provide time for parent conferences, we will have an early dismissal at 12:35 P.M. on Wednesday, December 12 (K-12). On Thursday, December 13, there will be a 90-minute late arrival (K-5 only). Students may begin arriving at school at 9:45 A.M., with the school day officially beginning at 10:00 A.M. We look forward to seeing you next week for parent conferences.

Morning Arrival: Parents who drive their children to school are kindly asked to make sure their children arrive beginning at 8:15 A.M. *but early enough to get to their classrooms for the start of the school day at 8:30 A.M.* It can take up to five minutes for students to walk from the car loop entrance to their classrooms, especially those in East House and North House. Children arriving at school after 8:30 A.M. need to come to the office, accompanied by a parent, to sign in and obtain a late pass. It makes for a much more positive beginning of the school day when all students are present for the opening responsive classroom activity.

Principal's Newsletter: The next Principal's Newsletter will be sent via email on Tuesday, December 18. Please take a few minutes to read the newsletters, which are posted on the Hurlbutt website. Copies are also available in the school office. I am committed to keeping you well-informed about all aspects of your child's school. Your comments and/or suggestions regarding the newsletters are welcomed, as always.

Welcoming Children to School: Mrs. Kus, HES assistant principal, and I enjoy welcoming students as they arrive in the morning and wishing them a good rest of the day as they leave school in the afternoon. Since the beginning of October, Mrs. Kus and I have been in the bus loop and car loop, respectively. Beginning this week, we have switched posts so that we can welcome different children to school. It's the highlight of our day!

Lockdown Drill: All Connecticut public schools are required to practice school building lockdown procedures to ensure the safety of children and staff in the event of a local, community or national emergency. The Weston Public Schools' model includes one announced lockdown drill and three unannounced lockdown drills annually. Working in partnership with our staff, school safety monitor and the Weston Police Department, we will be holding our first (announced) lockdown drill in December. Teachers will prepare students *in advance* of the drill. A separate letter will be sent to parents via email.

I hope you and your family are well and enjoying the beginning of the holiday season.

Best regards, Michael Cicchetti
Interim Principal
(203) 291-1444
MichaelCicchetti@westonps.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

On Tuesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hurlbutt South House Cafeteria, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Craw, and Dr. Keating (Director of Finance and Operations) will meet with any interested parents to conduct an informational session regarding the Hurlbutt shared space issues. At the past two Board of Education meetings there have been presentations regarding the proposed use of Hurlbutt Elementary School North House facilities by the Town in 2013-14 and beyond. For more information on the past few BOE meetings, please refer to the past 2 Scoop newsletters.

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

EVERGREEN GIFT BASKETS!

In keeping with tradition, Weston Intermediate School and Hurlbutt Elementary School will be working with the Evergreen Network by providing holiday gift baskets to families in need of assistance during this holiday season.

A letter was sent home with your child this week explaining the project and how your participation can greatly help. The families receiving these baskets have incomes below the poverty level. Many of them will not have food to eat during the holiday since the children are on a school vacation and will not receive their school meals.

This project is strictly voluntary...but if you are interested in taking part, we are asking your child to bring in a specific food item, a small gift for a family member, and \$2 towards the purchase of a Turkey.

If you have any questions, please contact WIS Chairs Meg Lawrence at Meqlaw91@gmail.com or Debra Crespi at debra_crespi@hotmail.com or Hurlbutt Chair Darcy Barrera at d.barrera@outlook.com.

NUTRITION NEWS

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

Jill Patterson RD, Resident Dietitian
Chartwells School Dining Services

WIS LOST & FOUND – HURLBUTT ITEMS

The Lost and Found at the Intermediate School is **“overflowing”** with jackets, coats, gloves, hats, mittens, prescription eyeglasses, jewelry, many lunchboxes and so much more!

There might be lost items from **Hurlbutt** since the bus garage turns in items left on the buses at the Lost and Found at WIS. Please stop by the Lost and Found located in the hallway of the WIS Cafetorium if you are missing any of your child(s) items.

All unclaimed items at the WIS Lost and Found will be donated to The Bridgeport Community Closet **during the winter break. Unclaimed items will be removed on December 21st**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Holiday!
Roberta ReCouper - Lost & Found
rrecoup@optonline.net

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

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.

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!](#)

A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AT THE NORFIELD GRANGE

Featuring a Variety of Artisans and Vendors - Thursday, December 13th, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., The Norfield Grange, 12 Good Hill Road, Weston, CT. [Click here](#) for flyer and more information.

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 – 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

Registration is currently underway for our Winter WOW! programs. We still have limited space in many of our exciting classes! Online registration is easy!

Don't get closed out! For a full description of our programs, including dates and costs, please visit our website at www.westonyouthservices.org.

Any questions, please call Charlene Monn, Program Coordinator, at 203-222-2586 or email cmonn@westonct.gov.

WESTON LITTLE LEAGUE WINTER WORKOUT PROGRAMS

[Click here](#) for more information on the Winter 2013 Workout Programs.

POSSIBLE WLL 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 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 troxellanne@optonline.net](mailto:troxellanne@optonline.net) to purchase a luminary kit directly.

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.