

The Hurlbutt Scoop
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, March 7, 2013

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

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

- March 28th – Early Dismissal 12:35pm (Professional Development Day)
- March 29th – No School (Good Friday)
- April 15th – 19th – No School (April Recess)
- May 9th & 10th – Early Dismissal 12:35pm (P/T Conferences for Grades K-5)
- May 24th – Early Dismissal 12:35pm (Professional Development Day)
- May 27th – No School (Memorial Day)

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

- March 15th – Wall Calendar Art Contest Deadline
- March 15th - Yearbook Order 1st Deadline (lowest price)
- March 18th - Weston Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM Weston Middle School LRC
- March 20th – Philanthropy Meeting, 9:30am, 15 Birch Hill Road
- April 13rd - Board of Finance Public Hearing on budget request -Wednesday 8:00 P.M. - Weston Middle School Cafeteria
- April 24th - Annual Town Budget Meeting 8:00 P.M. - Weston High School Auditorium

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

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

Hi everyone,

We all got an email from Dr. Palmer yesterday about the upcoming security update meeting on April 1st at 7pm in the HS auditorium: I know this is a topic of concern for many, many of us and I strongly encourage you to attend if you have any questions. I know I feel much better very time I speak to with Dr. P or Dr. C about security and hear what they are doing and (more importantly WHY). I also know that they are both always happy to answer any direct questions from you (or from me if you want to send me any questions I can ask anonymously for you). On the same note, please take a look at Sandy's BOE write up below which addresses the same topic.

There is an upcoming meeting of the Board of Finance on April 3rd. **It is very important for as many people as possible to attend and/or email their opinion either supporting the budget or not.** (We will be sending blasts to remind you.) We have been told that they are looking to cut \$100,000 from the proposed budget and that the two proposed extra "swing" teachers are a place they are zeroing in on. For our purposes, these are the teachers who would be used should children move into town and push a specific grade over guideline size and need an extra section. Please read the proposed budget and decide how you feel about it and then speak up (it is a small town and each voice matters).

Be sure to take a moment to discuss alternate dismissal plans with your kids in case of unexpected early dismissals. I heard a great suggestion to write an alternate dismissal choice on the yellow notes for days they are either going to a friend's house or staying

after school (of course I forgot to do so BOTH days mine stayed this week - but I plan to start).

On a light hearted note, the first grade is doing its fairy tale unit. Dr C. just returned from visiting his daughter, Sarah, in Paris and brought a copy of Rapunzel in French for the LRC (it even has an CD with it) - ask your kids about it in the next few weeks!

Don't forget to order your year book! Have a great week end, Sara & Tammy

Sara Spaulding & Tammy Roberts
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

BOARD OF EDUCATION - BUDGET 2013-2014 UPDATE

The Weston Board of Selectmen recommended a \$100,000 decrease in the proposed school operating budget. The selectmen voted to recommend to the Board of Finance a \$46,193,668 school operating budget. This reduces the current budget proposal's 1.55% increase to the selectmen's recommended 1.31% increase.

The Board of Selectmen can only recommend a dollar amount if it recommends a budget that is different from the school board's proposal. While the finance board has the power to cut or increase the school budget proposal put before voters, it is ultimately up to the school board to decide how the money approved is spent.

One area in which the selectmen suggested the budget could be streamlined was to eliminate a second contingency teacher, a cut which would directly impact the K-5 staffing needs. For reference, the following illustrates class size projections and policy for schools in our area, based on Superintendents' budget requests for the 2013-2014 school year.

District	K	1	2	3	4	5
Weston	19.3	19.5	20.8	20.8	23.0	23.8
Westport	19.6	18.6	21.1	20.4	21.1	21.6
Wilton	18.8	18.9	21.1	21.8	21.7	21.6
Darien	19.7	19.5	22.0	21.9	23.0	23.3
New Caanan	18.5	20.2	18.9	19.2	23.0	22.3
Redding	17.0	18.2	15.8	20.0	22.7	18.8
Easton	17.0	17.6	19.6	19.7	20.2	20.6
Trumbull		Darien		Westport		Wilton
K - not to exceed 20		K-1 24		K-1 max 22		K- 1 18-20
1 - not to exceed 22		2-3 26		2-5 max 25		2-12 20-22
2 - not to exceed 22		4-5 27				
3-5 - not to						

exceed 25						
Westport Breakdown						
	K	1	2	3	4	5
Coleytown	21.0	21.0	21.7	19.3	21.3	22.3
Green farms	21.0	16.8	19.8	18.8	19.8	19.3
Kings Hwy	17.5	19.0	19.5	18.8	21.8	22.8
Long lots	17.4	17.4	24.0	21.8	21.4	19.8
Saugatuck	21.0	18.6	20.8	23.3	21.3	24.0
Average:	19.6	18.6	21.1	20.4	21.1	21.6
Darien Breakdown						
	K	1	2	3	4	5
Hindley	23.0	22.8	22.0	23.0	21.4	24.3
Holmes	20.0	19.8	20.0	23.0	26.0	20.3
Ox Ridge	19.5	19.3	22.7	19.8	23.8	26.0
Royle	17.5	17.5	23.7	21.0	21.7	21.7
Tokeneke	18.5	18.3	21.5	22.7	22.0	24.0
Average:	19.7	19.5	22.0	21.9	23.0	23.3

If you are concerned about how the proposed cut affects class sizes, this is the time to make yourself heard. Below is a list of the email addresses of the Board of Finance members. I encourage you to email your concerns to them. The next meeting with a public comment segment is ***April 3rd*** (8:00 P.M. - Weston Middle School Cafeteria) when the Board of Finance holds a Public Hearing on budget requests. This is the most important meeting for parents to attend. The Board of Finance needs to see parents and hear their concerns - this is the last meeting for people to have a voice in the budget proceedings - come and speak up or the Board of Finance will not know this is such a heart-felt issue among the HES/WIS families.

David Finkel	davidfinkel@sbcglobal.net
Jerry Sargent	gtsarge@hotmail.com
Melissa Koller	mzkoller@optonline.net
Michael Carter	mcarter@cartermorse.com
Michael O'Brien	Michael.obrien@march.com
Patrice Kopas	kskopas@optonline.net
Steve Ezzes	stevenezzes@gmail.com

The remaining meetings for the Board of Education Budget Calendar:

- **03/12/13 Board of Finance reviews Board of Education budget request - Town Hall meeting room 7:30 (note change of date)**
- **04/03/13 Board of Finance holds Public Hearing on budget request - Wednesday 8:00 P.M. - Weston Middle School Cafeteria**
- **04/24/13 Annual Town Budget Meeting 8:00 P.M. - Weston High School Auditorium**

Sandra Hart, sandy@sundial.com
BOE Representative

MEMORIAL DAY FAIR - COMING SOON!!!

Everything you need to know about this year's Memorial Day Fair. All volunteer sign-ups, unlimited ride bracelet coupons and t-shirt order forms will be online and ready to go on April 1st. All pre-sale purchases must be completed by May 3rd.

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE - READY, SET, PLAY

Come this spring there will be a small but important addition to each one of Hurlbutt's three playgrounds: Three new weather resistant storage bins will house a variety of new playground toys including balls, jump ropes and hoops.

The request for this much-needed addition to our children's interactive and purposeful outdoor play came from Assistant Principal Kim Kus and Brooke Quinn. Competitive bids were reviewed by the Philanthropy Committee and a motion was passed to approve \$1,130 for the purchase. The PTO's Executive and General Boards also passed the motion giving this purchase the green light for spring.

Many more important items are on the agenda for Philanthropy including a request for an innovative new "ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK" program that will allow us to build school community by a joint student-teacher reading. Staff and children will read the same book and participate in related activities together.

PLEASE: Get involved and get connected. Philanthropy is an open committee and anyone interested in reviewing or submitting proposals is encouraged to attend our next meeting on:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th at 9:30 a.m.
15 Birch Hill Road
Come for the croissants, stay for the kids!

2013 WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WALL CALENDAR ART CONTEST

Cover Art Prize: \$50 iTunes Gift Card

Attention: ALL WESTON STUDENTS, Grades Pre-K to 12

The Weston Public Schools Wall Calendar Art Contest has begun!

All students residing in Weston are encouraged to submit artwork, regardless of age, grade, or artistic ability. Thirteen winners will be selected to appear throughout the Calendar that will go on sale in August 2013. The student whose work is selected to appear on the cover of the 2013/2014 Calendar will be awarded a \$50 iTunes gift card.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

- Art should be produced on 8.5" x 11" white paper. Landscape layout only.
- Colorful art with less white space works best.
- Use non-smudge mediums including markers, crayons or colored pencils

- Label your artwork -- student's name, school, grade, telephone number on the BACK in light pencil.
- Art should be family-Calendar appropriate including but not limited to that depicting seasons, specific months and holidays – be creative!
- Completed art work may be dropped off in the HES, WIS, WMS or WHS Main Office in the "Calendar Art" basket.
- Digital photographs of art work such as oil paintings, murals, etchings, etc. will be considered on a case by case basis, based on clarity for reproduction. Files should be emailed to Amy Meyerson at amy@almesq.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, March 15, 2013

SELECTION PROCESS:

- Students may submit up to three (3) pieces of art work, although only one submission per student may be selected to appear in the calendar.
- Winners will be notified before May 2, 2013 and may be asked to participate in a group publicity photo with their work.
- Due to the volume of submissions received, art work will NOT be returned.

Please use your imagination and have fun with this project!

Amy Meyerson and Stacey Tucker
Weston Public Schools Wall Calendar Committee

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.

MARCH 2013 NUTRITION NEWS

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

Jill Patterson RD, Resident Dietitian
Chartwells School Dining Services

HURLBUTT 2012-13 YEARBOOK PHOTOS

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

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!](#)

WHS COMPANY'S SPRING MUSICAL – KISS ME KATE

Tickets available online now for Weston High School COMPANY's spring musical production of Cole Porter's Tony Award winning Kiss Me, Kate.

Performances are: Friday, March 15th @ 8 PM; Saturday, March 16th @ 8 PM; Sunday, March 17th @ 3 PM; Friday, March 22nd @ 8 PM; and Saturday, March 23rd at 3 PM. Students/Seniors \$8. Adults \$12. Additional information available at www.whs-company.com

WESTON GIRLS SOFTBALL

Weston Girls Softball is now a part of Weston Little League. Online registration for the Spring 2013 season is open. Go to www.westonll.com for more information.

WESTON SWIMMING

Weston Swimming Registration is open for the 2013 Long Course Season. We are a

competitive swim team for kids ages 6-18. [Click here](#) for more information. This program is tons of fun, and we are actively seeking new swimmers to join us in the pool!

2nd ANNUAL TOUCH FOOTBALL GAME

Friday, March 8th, Stadium Field (between WHS and WIS) - WHS Football Coach Joe Lato and the Weston High School Football players will run touch football games for each grade: Grades 1-5: Meet on the Stadium Field after school at 3:30 PM, ready to play and have fun. Pick-up is at 4:30 PM. Grades 6-8: Meet on the Stadium Field after school at 2:45 PM, ready to play and have fun. Pick-up is at 3:45 PM. [Click here](#) for more information.

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES – SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS

Spring 2013 WOW! After – School Programs!: Weston Youth Services is pleased to announce that our Spring 2013 catalogue is now available online for preview. Our programs, which are offered to students in Grades K-2, are scheduled to begin the week of April 22nd and run through the week of June 3rd! Please visit our website to check out our classes at www.westonyouthservices.org.

Registration begins on Tuesday, March 26th at 12:01 a.m.! For those students who were waitlisted from any of our winter programs, you will be sent a link in the upcoming weeks to register on March 21st and March 22nd, if that program is offered this spring.

Summer 2013 Camps: We are currently working on our summer camps and hope to have our programs online in the next two weeks! From musical theatre and yoga to legos and model building, our camps are surely going to be exciting!

Any questions, please contact Charlene Monn, Program Coordinator, at 203-222-2586.

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES - PRESENTS

Tackling the tough stuff:

A series of conversations to help parents prepare for those conversations

The toughest topics to talk with your kids about are also usually the most important to talk with your kids about! Just the thought of discussing sex, alcohol, drugs, violence, divorce, and death may fill some parents with angst. Parents often worry about what to say, when to say it, and how to say it, and their own feelings (and fears) may send stronger messages than their words. It's natural to want to shield children from the harsh realities of the world, and feel uneasy discussing the facts (and especially the fatalities) of life. However children need reliable information from responsible sources, and it's crucial for families to find some common and comfortable ground to tackle the tough stuff.

Weston Youth Services is pleased to present a series of conversations to help prepare families for those conversations. We will address diverse topics of (dread and) interest such as how to initiate conversations with children about sex, drugs, and alcohol; how to talk with children about tragedy (including illness, death, divorce, or violence); how to tailor details for children of different ages; how to navigate media coverage and internet information; and how to manage feelings of unease and awkwardness during difficult discussions. Each month we focus on a particular theme and host several

interactive sessions co-led by guest speakers to highlight social, psychological, educational, and legal information and issues. The Youth Services website (www.westonyouthservices.org) will also feature corresponding resources including articles, book recommendations, and suggested organizations and websites.

By participating in this series, parents will gain awareness regarding how their own beliefs and behaviors influence children; knowledge about developmental theories, current research, and educational and legal mandates; as well as practical and effective strategies to enhance parent-child communication and relationships. And most importantly, we hope to give parents the tools and the tenacity to tackle the tough stuff (and maybe even see that it doesn't have to be so tough after all).

Join us this month as we focus on **Between hands-off and helicopter: Finding a happy medium and message for communicating with your children.**

Managing the media: How to monitor children's media exposure and talk about what they see and hear: Monday March 11th, 12-1:30 pm, Weston Public Library

One size doesn't fit all: Children, choices, and consequences: Thursday March 21st, 6 pm, Family University at Weston High School

Straight talk for toddlers through teens: Monday March 25th, 9-10-30 am, Weston Public Library

Up next...

- Coming in April.....*Sex, Drugs, and Rock-n-Roll: Puberty, sex, substance use and abuse: Who, what, when, why, and how to teach kids what good music really sounds like*
- Coming in May..... *Mothers as Models and Father Figures: Maternal mindsets and paternal perspectives: Nurturing the next generation of comfortable, confident, and caring men and women*
- Coming in June....*Camp, college, and coming of age: Encouraging independence and discouraging indiscretion: How parents can promote growth and good even when they aren't present*

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 PROGRAMS

[Click here](#) for information on Weston Parks & Recreation programs for children and adults! You'll find flyers on each program, registration dates and fees. Registration for Weekday/Saturday Spring Swim Classes begins on March 12th.

WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Lunch and Learn Writing Workshops with Marcelle Soviero
Back by popular demand! This is a three part Lunch and Learn Series that the Friends of the Weston Public Library is co-sponsoring with the Weston Education Foundation. Marcelle Soviero, Wilton author and Editor-In-Chief of *Brain, Child: The*

Magazine for Thinking Mothers will teach the workshops. The three workshops will cover various aspects of the writing process:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 13: | Journal Writing/Getting Started |
| March 20: | Crafting Personal Essays/Memoir Writing |
| March 27: | Publishing your Short or Full-length Work |

You can attend any or all of the workshops. Admission is free but pre-registration for these workshops is encouraged as space is limited. To pre-register, email friendsofthewestonlibrary@gmail.com Bring your lunch and join us!

Overview of OverDrive: eBooks @ The Library

Did you get an eReader over the holidays? Now that you've had a chance to experiment with your new device, learn how you can get eBooks from the Library!

- March 6, 6PM -- Overview of OverDrive; Learn more about the Library's eBook service.
- March 12, 1PM-3PM – eReader Walk-In Clinic; Bring your eReader and we'll help you get started with OverDrive. Sessions may be limited to 15 minutes.
- March 21, 2PM-4PM -- eReader Walk-In Clinic; Bring your eReader and we'll help you get started with OverDrive. Sessions may be limited to 15 minutes.

Teen Tech Week: Take A Break @ The Library

Help us celebrate national Teen Tech Week! Snacks provided!

- March 12, 3PM-4PM – PS3 Sports Champions on the big screen in the Community Room
- March 13, 3PM-4PM – Create your own duct tape eReader, tablet, or smartphone case
- March 14, 3PM-5PM – Special screening of *The Princess Bride* (PG)

***Special Teen Tech Week Parent Program*

Monday, March 11 at 12 Noon

Join Youth Services Director Michelle Albright for Media Savvy tips for parents!

Thursday Morning Book Club – *1984* by George Orwell: Thursday, March 14 at 10:30 AM

Wednesday Evening Book Club – *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philippe Sendker: Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 PM

Documentary Screening

Thursday March 21 at 7 PM:

Topic to be announced

Special Screening of *Kiss Me Kate*: Sunday March 21 at 3 PM

Movie Night Feature Film – *The Life of Pi* (PG): Wednesday, March 27 at 7 PM. Free popcorn and water! Come and enjoy the movie!

WESTON WOMEN'S LEAGUE: MOTHER-TO-MOTHER BABY SHOWER

Mother-to-Mother Baby Shower, Wednesday, April 24th 2013, 11 am – 1 pm.
For expectant moms of the Family and Children's Agency's (FCA) Maternal Child Programs.

Please DONATE your NEW or gently used baby items for the shower gift baskets (board books, baby blankets, baby toys, etc.) This is truly a special event for these women as they enter motherhood. Look for bins in the vestibule of Hurlbutt and WIS during March.

Contact: Margaret Krauss, margaret_krauss@yahoo.com

GIVE THE GIFT OF FRESH AIR THIS SUMMER

Join other Weston families in opening your home and hearts to a New York City child from a disadvantaged community. Each year since 1877, thousands of Fresh Air Fund children visit volunteer host families in 13 states and Canada through the Friendly Town Program.

We are seeking volunteer host families who would be willing to open their hearts and home to give city children from low-income communities an experience they'll never forget. Children ages 6-12 stay for one to two weeks and are eager to experience the simple life our community has to offer - stargazing, running barefoot in the grass, a day at Compo beach, or swimming in a pool.

For more information, visit our website, www.freshair.org or contact Martha Mintzer, Fund Representative, 203-226-6627 martha_mintzer@yahoo.com

WESTON ARTS

WestonArts is a non-profit volunteer organization supporting and developing the Arts in Weston. 82% of Weston school children participate in arts programs, and WestonArts supplements the funding of projects not fully covered by the school or Town budgets. WestonArts funds grants for (new) school and community projects, and awards grants to teachers, artists, and children. Here are just a few examples:

- \$6000 awarded yearly through Weston Social Services for art and music lessons for children in need
- Four \$500 scholarships awarded yearly to WHS graduating seniors for further study of the arts
- Instrument donations to the Weston schools

Please check our web site for a full listing of WestonArts' accomplishments and funding guidelines -www.westonarts.com. Should you have questions, email us at info@westonarts.org.

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.