

The Hurlbutt Scoop

Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter
Thursday, May 9, 2013

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS

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

- 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

- May 10th – 1st Grade Mother's Day Concert, 9:30am
- May 17th – Kindergarten Concert/Art Show; 9:30am: Art Show begins at 9:00am
- May 17th – BoxTop Deadline
- May 20th – BOE Meeting 7:30 p.m. Weston Middle School LRC
- May 24th – May 27th - Memorial Day Fair
- May 26th – Memorial Day 5K Race
- May 29th – PTO Joint Board Luncheon, 11:30am-1:30pm
- June 6th - 2nd Grade Evening w/The Arts, 6:00pm, Concert: 6:30pm (Rain Date is Monday, June 10th)
- June 7th – Beckoff PreK Music Class Open House, 9:30am
- June 10th – Mora PreK Music Class Open House, 9:30am
- June 12th = Cunningham PreK Music Class Open House, 9:30am

[CLICK HERE FOR MEMORIAL DAY FAIR NEWS](#)

Fair dates & times, volunteer opportunities, and more!

SCHOOL & PTO NEWS

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

Yesterday was our Staff Appreciation Day and I really want to thank each and every parent for supporting our staff (so many donations and volunteers!). We have some of the best staff around and it is so nice to see how all of you took the time to acknowledge them. The flowers were all so beautiful and I saw many of the staff smiling while reading their telegrams (the donations from the telegrams get used to buy things for the staff at their choosing like PBIS t-shirts or a microwave for the lounge). I especially want to thank our incredible chairs: Catherine McCarthy, Shawn Amato and Jen Socha - you ladies did such a beautiful job and managed to look calm and graceful while doing all that work - none of us can thank you enough for pulling together the perfect day for our staff!!!

There are a bunch of important dates up top (concerts and feid days and half days etc) - please take a look and mark your calendars. We are having a spring BoxTop

collection NEXT WEEK (the 17th, please see Stacy O'Neil's section below) - send them in!

Next week we will find out the One Book One School title - the hints and clues have been building: did you guess it yet? It is such a cool program where everyone in the building gets a copy of the same book and the staff will have lots of lessons and activities around it (please read about it in the write up below). Be sure to ask your kids about it!

As I am sure many of you know, the Board of Finance chose to reduce our BOE budget by \$190,000. Please see Sandy's BOE write up (or one of Dr Palmer's emails) for a full breakdown of how the cuts will impact the schools. For us, the main change is that Spanish will only be taught in second grade next year. All grades will be receiving keyboarding skills training which is crucial going forward (believe me, I have a WIS student and it is already an issue). Rest assured that Dr. C is already looking into possible ways to bridge the year for the incoming first graders so that their Spanish will not be lost over the year.

It's that time of year again - Memorial Day Fair!! Please sign up for a shift (drag your friends with you too). Gina Albert, Bernie Park (WIS chairs) and Dan McNeil (HES chair) have been working really hard all year and it promises to be a great fair!

Enjoy the weekend!

Sara & Tammy
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL CICCHETTI

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In my previous two Principal's Newsletters I included a request that children arrive at school 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.* As you know, 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. I've been spending quite a bit of time in classrooms the past several weeks and have had an opportunity to observe how difficult it is for tardy students to jump into their learning activities. It makes for a much more positive beginning of the school day when all students are present at 8:30 for the opening classroom activity. As a gentle reminder, 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. Also, parents are asked to follow the car loop procedures and not drop children off in the lower parking lot. We appreciate your cooperation.

Best regards,

Michael Cicchetti, Interim Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

District news:

On Monday evening the Weston Board of Education adopted the mitigation plan to address the \$190K reduction in the education budget by the Board of Finance. The primary goals in determining reductions were: 1) to ensure that classroom sizes do not exceed the district guidelines and 2) to preserve the core of our educational program pre K-12. The district was equitable in their budget reductions - all 4 schools faced comparable cuts.

Although the district is committed to a world language program in K-12, the current budget limitations prompted reexamining offering Spanish in grades K & 1 for the fall. For the 2013-14 school year, Spanish will remain in grade 2, but will not be offered in K or grade 1. It is the district's intent to reintroduce the program for all grades at HES in 2014-15, budget permitting.

The BOE and the district realize that classes sizes are close to limits in several grades. Given the tight budget constraints, even minor enrollment additions will trigger supplemental appropriations requests from the BOE and District to the BOF for additional teachers. The Principals are working closely with Dr. Palmer to monitor class sizes and staffing needs for 2013-14 as families register new children into the school system.

Other news:

Newsweek ranks Weston High School the 2nd best high school in Connecticut and 190th in the nation. Newsweek's rankings highlight the best 2,000 public high schools in the nation. The list is based on six components: graduation rate (25 percent), college acceptance rate (25 percent), AP/IB/AICE tests taken per student (25 percent), average SAT/ACT scores (10 percent), average AP/IB/AICE scores (10 percent), and percent of students enrolled in at least one AP/IB/AICE course (5 percent). Weston has a graduation rate of 100%, an average SAT score of 1794 (out of 2100), and 94% of our graduates pursue higher degrees.

US News & World Report ranked Weston High school 3rd best high school in Connecticut and 240th in the nation out of over 21,000 public high schools in 49 states and the District of Columbia. The high schools were evaluated based on state proficiency standards and how well they prepare students for college.

Sandra Hart, sandy@sundial.com

BOE Representative

MEMORIAL DAY FAIR NEWS!

Weston's biggest family event will be here before you know it. We have new fair hours this year:

Friday May 24th 6pm – 10pm

Saturday May 25th 2pm – 10pm
Sunday May 26th 2pm – 10pm
Mon May 27th noon – 4pm

Thank you to everyone who purchased shirts and unlimited ride bracelet coupons. All purchases will be delivered to Weston schools on Monday, May 20th.

It's now time to start thinking about how you can help with the fair. We need volunteers to work the fair. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for a shift. It's a lot of fun to work the fair especially if you get a group of friends together. Believe it or not, this is a great volunteer opportunity for Dads. Please check your calendars and sign up today to reserve your slot.

We also need bakers to prepare items for the bake sale. Our amazing bake sale chairs, Alana Cross and Melanie Smith, have pre-approved nut-free recipes which will be delivered to your house with disposable baking pans. Simply prepare your items and deliver the pan to the fair. No cutting and wrapping of individual items. Click [HERE](#) to sign up to bake.

MEMORIAL DAY FAIR COMMUNITY BOOTH

Memorial Day Fair Community Booth Registration is open. Please go to www.westonpspto.org, click on the Memorial Day Fair tab and look for Community Booth registration. All the details for Community Booths at the fair are there. Approvals will be handled promptly.

HES PTO JOINT BOARD LUNCHEON

Please join us for the Hurlbutt Elementary School Joint PTO Board Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday May 29, 2013, 11:30am -1:30pm, Aspetuck Valley Country Club, 67 Old Redding Road, Weston, CT 06883.

Menu: Stuffed Breast of Chicken with Goat Cheese and a Deconstructed BLT Salad, Roasted Salmon, Green Papaya, Mango, Bok Choy and Sticky Rice, or Vegetarian Entree. Chocolate Almond Cake served with vanilla ice cream, coffee, tea and soft drinks will be served for dessert.

[Click here](#) to RSVP, select your entree and make online payment of \$30 by Wednesday May 22nd, 2013. Country Club attire, no denim please!

2013-2-14 WALL CALENDAR

The 2013-2014 WPS Wall Calendar is now accepting sponsors! Sponsoring next year's calendar is a great way to support our school. Send a message of love, congratulations or encouragement to your child(ren), teachers and friends in Weston. The calendar will include all important dates for High School, Middle

School, Intermediate School and Hurlbutt for the coming year. [Click here](#) for more information.

BOX TOP CLIPPING CONTEST

Box tops must be in by Friday, May 17th! The class who has the most box tops will win an ice cream party! Thank you to those who have been bringing those box tops in all year long!!

HES STAFF APPRECIATION DAY – THANK YOU!

Thank you to all for making Staff Appreciation Day a success! On Wednesday, May 8th the entire HES staff enjoyed a delicious lunch. Thank you to all who sent in monetary donations, food, desserts or beverage items. The lunch could not have happened without your generous donations! A special thank you to Peter's Market, who donated all the sandwiches, as well as Alison Grace of AMG Catering and Marcia Selden Catering for their generous donations to the luncheon.

Thank you to all who volunteered to help arrange and deliver flowers, and to all who monitored lunch and recess so the teachers could enjoy their lunch!

We would also like to thank all of you for ensuring that all of the HES staff received flowers! By pre-ordering your flowers online through the Middle School Fundraiser; the flowers came from Trader Joe's and were beautiful. We were able to deliver a floral bouquet to every single staff member!

Staff Appreciation Committee
Jen Socha, Shawn Amato, Catherine McCarthy

WIS LOST & FOUND

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

There may be lost items from Hurlbutt since the bus garage turns in items left on the school 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 on the last day of school, June 20th.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Roberta ReCouper - Lost & Found

rrecoup@optonline.net

LRC BOOKS

Thank you for helping your children be responsible with our LRC books by finding a safe place to keep them at home and by returning them on time. Please remember books can be renewed by students who bring them to the LRC. Books can also be returned any school day. As per policy, you child may be asked to not borrow if the maximum checkouts have been reached or if there is an overdue book. In this case, students are encouraged to put a book on hold and pick it up the next day when needed books are returned. Overdue notices have been sent home this week. Please don't hesitate to call the LRC if there is a question about a notice or if a book has been lost. Thanks for your help.

Sharon Rodko, Librarian

ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

We are excited to announce a new initiative at Hurlbutt Elementary School made possible through PTO funding. Our school will be embarking on a special project, an all school book club called One School, One Book. All students will receive a copy of the same book to share as a read aloud at home with their family. You can read it to your child, have them read it to you, partner read or even involve an older sibling – whatever works best for your reader and your family. One School, One Book is a unique program in that children at all grade levels will be sharing the same book.

While the intent is for families to share the story at home, there will be various in school activities related to the book. A reading calendar will be sent home to keep everyone on pace to finish chapters at the same time in order to facilitate the activities.

The books will be distributed on May 13th at a school-wide assembly. The title is a SECRET until then! Leading up to the assembly, students will receive hints about the title. More information will be sent home in a letter along with the reading calendar on May 13th. We're very excited about growing our community of readers through this program.

~ The Hurlbutt One School, One Book Team

HURLBUTT YEARBOOKS

HES YEARBOOKS ARE NO LONGER FOR SALE - THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED
A finite amount of extra books have been ordered. Please contact Laurie Eagle in the Main office to be put on the list for one if you forgot to order.

HURLBUTT CONCERT SCHEDULE/DATES

1st Grade Mother's Day Concerts

- Thursday, May 9th @ 9:30am: Classes of McNulty, Guertin, Needham, and Gilleylen only)
- Friday, May 10th @ 9:30am: Classes of Quinn, Coleman, Grosso, and Merrifield only

Kindergarten Concert and Art Show

- Friday, May 17th @ 9:30am: Art Show begins at 9:00am

2nd Grade Evening with the Arts

- Thursday, June 6th: Art Show: 6:00pm, Concert: 6:30pm (Rain Date is Monday, June 10th)

PreK Music Class Open House

- Dr. Beckoff's class: June 7th @ 9:30am
 - Ms. Mora's class: June 10th @ 9:05am
 - Ms. Cunningham's class: June 12 @ 9:30am
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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Preparations for the Hurlbutt Elementary School 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. Early registration is important as the information we collect will help us to budget accordingly and plan for the next school year.

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

Please bring the completed registration packet, along with proof of residency (telephone, gas or electric bill), and a copy of your child's birth certificate to the Hurlbutt main office. Without all of these documents, your child cannot be registered.

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

HURLBUTT TO HOST BUS RIDES FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTENERS

All kindergarten students entering Hurlbutt in August 2013 are invited to take a short school bus ride and visit the school.

Children attending Early Learning Center, Emmanuel Nursery School, Norfield Nursery School, St. Francis of Assisi Nursery School and Temple Israel Early Childhood Center are already scheduled for visits during their regular school hours on either May 14th or 16th.

Children who do not attend one of the above pre-schools will also have an opportunity to visit Hurlbutt on May 16th at 10:30AM. Children and parents will meet in the Learning Resource Center at Hurlbutt. At that time, your children will be checked-in so that they can have a short tour then board the bus for their bus ride. The children will be chaperoned by Meg Sullivan, School Counselor, while parents remain at Hurlbutt to chat with Dr. Michael Cicchetti, our interim principal.

MAY 2013 NUTRITION NEWS

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

Jill Patterson RD, Resident Dietitian
Chartwells School Dining Services

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!](#)

BEACH BLANKET & CHAIRS EVENT AT MEMORIAL DAY FAIR - LIVE MUSIC

Wanted....BANDS for the Weston Memorial Day Fair. Performances will be on Saturday, May 25, 2013. To be considered for this event you need first and foremost a professional attitude. You are playing to the town and this is a real opportunity to showcase your talents. Next, you need to have 20 minutes of music in your set list to perform...and lastly, you need to submit a sample of your work for review by the Weston Memorial Day Fair band committee. **The deadline for submissions is April 1st.** Your band will be notified of next steps during the first week of April 2013. Submit your sample to goDOGmusic@gmail.com

ON YOUR MARK....GET SET...GO!

Start Memorial Weekend off on the right foot with the Kids Fun Run and 5K Road Race! Children in grades k thru 5 are invited to join in the fun at 8:00 AM Saturday morning, May 25th on the Weston High School Track as we kick off the best weekend in Weston with 3 separate races just for them!!! A 100-yard dash, the 1/4-mile (once around)...and the big one - the mile!!! Kids can choose to run one, two- or all three races.

For runners looking for a "bigger" challenge - the 5K is just the ticket! Also starting (and finishing) at the High School, The race is a fast, scenic loop through residential

and historic sections of Weston.

Pre-Registration for both the Fun Run and the 5K can be done online at www.weston5k.com or in person on race day.

WHS BOOSTERS YOUTH NIGHT for Awesome Kids in Grades 3 - 6!

Friday, May 17th, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Weston High School: MOVIE, GAMES IN THE GYMS, PIZZA AND MORE!

If your child wants to have some fun, has endless energy, has a great sense of humor, has a bunch of buddies, wants something awesome to do and has a parent who wants to support WHS Boosters, then join us for a kids' night only! Our High School athletes, along with adult supervisors, will be there to play, shout, shoot and run! Click here for flyer and RSVP sign-up form.

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

Are you still undecided about your child's summer plans?

Weston Youth Services, in collaboration with the Weston Public Schools, is excited to offer students entering Grades 1-9 a range of exciting summer camp opportunities including our creative arts/enrichment camp, musical theater, orchestra, band and piano, international cooking, science and engineering.

For a complete description of each of the programs, including dates, instructors, and costs, please visit our website at www.westonyouthservices.org. Online registration is currently underway!

WESTON'S LITTLE EXPLORER SUMMER CAMP!

It's time to think SUMMER! Enroll your child in Weston's Little Explorers Summer Camp!

Weston's Little Explorers Summer Camp is designed for those children who wish to learn more about America, have fun playing carnival-themed games and activities, explore the fun adventures of the Wild West, and experience Australian culture and customs. Your child will explore all of these areas (and more!) through group lessons and hands-on activities that will foster lasting peer relationships and social interactions.

Our goal is to create educational learning experiences that are fun and informational for your child while strengthening their ability to socially interact with their peers appropriately.

Week 1: Happy Birthday, America!

Week 2: Step Right Up and Join the Fun...it's a Camp Carnival!

Week 3: Yee-haw! Adventures in the Wild, Wild West

Week 4: G' Day Mate! Let's Take a Trip through Australia

Camp Dates/Hours: Monday, July 1st - Friday, July 26th, 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

(**No Camp on July 4th**)

Location: Weston Intermediate School

Cost: \$75.00 per week

For more details or to sign up, please contact Andrea Russo at the Dept. of Pupil Services, Central Office 291-1405

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION – ADULT & CHILDREN PROGRAMS

[Click here](#) for information on Weston Parks & Recreation programs for children and adults! Summer camp registration is open. You'll find flyers, registration dates and fees on the Parks & recreation website for swimming, running club, fishing program and much much more.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Weston Public Schools will be hosting the Southwest Regional games for Special Olympics again this year on Saturday, May 11th. We had a great response from the Weston community last year and we are hoping that everyone will come out and join us again. The event runs from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and the athletes from the region will participate in Track and Field, Aquatics, and Tennis competitions. There will also be an "Olympic Town" where games and activities are provided for the athletes to participate in when they are not competing. Weston will again have their own team of students who are currently training for Track and Field and Aquatics events for May 11th, so come and cheer them on!

Special Olympics is a great organization and relies totally on volunteers to ensure the success of their events and so we are looking for volunteers to assist us on the day of the event. We hope to get volunteers from school staff, parents and students as well as Weston community members. We hope that in addition to yourself, you will encourage your students to also get involved. [Click here](#) for the STUDENT VOLUNTEER FORM and [click here](#) for the COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FORM. This year for Weston Student volunteers you will see on the form that there is an option of just volunteering for either the morning or the afternoon if students cannot commit to the entire day. Just a reminder that any student under the age of 15 who volunteers must have a parent accompany them. Completed volunteer FORMS can be sent to Nancy Johnston at Weston High School, 115 School Road, Weston, CT 06883 or email to nancyjohnston@westonps.org. Sending in your completed volunteer form ensures you a volunteer spot. Your assignment for the day will be given to you when you arrive on May 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Russo at 201-291-1405 or andrearusso@westonps.org.

If you are unable to volunteer for the day of the event but would like to help out, Special Olympics does accept donations to assist with the costs of their events. Anyone wishing to make a donation should send it directly to the Special Olympics office to: Lisa Vane, Regional Director, 101 Merritt Boulevard, Trumbull, CT 06611 (Note: Special Olympics CT).

We are looking forward to another successful year of supporting these amazing athletes. If you have not been involved with Special Olympics before you will find it

a truly rewarding experience!

Sincerely,
Lois Pernice, Pupil Personnel Director

WESTON TROJAN FOOTBALL & CHEER

Online registration and additional information is available for Flag Football (Grades 1-3), Tackle Football (Grades 4-8) and Cheerleading (Grades 1-8). [Click here](#) for flyer or go www.trojansfootball.org. Also, [Click here](#) for flag football clinic flyer and [click here](#) for football camp flyer.

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.

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.

BROWNIE TROOP COLLECTION FOR WILDLIFE IN CRISIS

The 3rd Grade Brownie Troop 50979 is collecting items for Wildlife in Crisis. Wildlife

in crisis helps injured animals right here in Weston. The organization helps injured animals and then releases them into the wild. Please visit their website www.wildlifeincrisis.org for more information.

The items will be collected all April in the lobby at: WIS, Hurlbut, Weston Library and Peter's Market.

Items wanted are: Bounty paper towels (select a size), Walnuts, unsalted with no shell, Peanuts, Purina puppy chow, Purina indoor cat dry food, Bird suet cakes, Cheerios, Duracell Batteries (AAA, AA, D), Tide Detergent (HE), Clorox Clean-up, Hand Soap, Dish Soap, Heavy duty black trash bags, 40 gallon.

(Please note brand names where indicated. It is important for certain animals/uses.) Thank you for helping our Brownie Troop help Wildlife in Crisis

Please contact Nikki Lehman at toadfan@me.com or Terry Cho at kixxmann@aol.com with any questions.

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.