

***The Hurlbutt Scoop***  
**Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Newsletter**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2013**

***SCHOOL CLOSINGS & SCHEDULED DELAYS***

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

May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – Early Dismissal 12:35pm (P/T Conferences for Grades K-5)  
May 24<sup>th</sup> – Early Dismissal 12:35pm (Professional Development Day)  
May 27<sup>th</sup> – No School (Memorial Day)

***UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS***

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Fair shirts and discount bracelets pre-sale deadline  
May 6<sup>th</sup> – Special BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. Weston Middle School LRC  
May 20<sup>th</sup> – BOE Meeting 7:30 p.m. Weston Middle School LRC  
May 24<sup>th</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Fair  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day 5K Race  
May 29<sup>th</sup> – PTO Joint Board Luncheon

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

Fair dates & times, volunteer opportunities, purchase shirts, tank top and discount unlimited ride bracelet orders and more!

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***SCHOOL & PTO NEWS***

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

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great break and is ready for the home stretch of the school year (it went by so fast). This week the BOE approved Mrs. Kaddis as the new principal for HES starting in July! We want to welcome Mrs. Kaddis; she is not only an amazingly experienced administrator, but is also a Weston mom. Dr. C has become a much beloved part of our school and we will miss him dearly, but I am certain that Mrs. Kaddis will lead our school and children into a great year too!

Don't forget that we have Staff Appreciation Day coming up! Send your kids to school with their flowers and they will go right into the classroom this year! Jen Socha and Shawn Amato have pulled together an amazing tribute to our fabulous staff (thank you so much for all of the hard work ladies!!). Please consider going online and donating food or flowers for the rest of the staff (the middle school fundraiser is selling flowers which you can donate and we will deliver to all of the non-classroom teachers - like Mr Hallgren for example).

The fair is just around the corner - please sign up to volunteer for a shift if you can. Also, don't forget that the t-shirt deadline is fast approaching (I know my kids always want them). In other exciting news, Weston High School was named as #3 in CT this year! =

Sara & Tammy  
Hurlbutt PTO Co-Presidents

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE**

District news:

In the wake of the BOF decision to reduce the BOE's proposed 0.39% increase to a - 0.03% decrease in next year's budget, the district is focused on maintaining high quality education within the constraints of a fiscally responsible budget. The district is reviewing each budget line item to formulate a recommendation to the BOE to address the \$190,000 reduction from the BOE proposal. Dr. Palmer will provide details via letter prior to the special May 6<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting (7:00 p.m. in the Weston Middle School LRC) when she presents a revised budget to the BOE.

The following highlights some ideas under consideration:

- Deferral of some maintenance projects
- Reduction of after-school enrichment opportunities
- Increase in student fees
- Reduction in book accounts
- Deferral of both facility and school equipment requests
- Deferral of furniture replacement requests by schools
- Reduction of scope of academic programs
- Reduction in professional development
- Reduction of overtime accounts
- Reduction of technology requests by schools

Laura Kaddis and her family were formally introduced at the BOE meeting and the Board officially appointed Ms. Kaddis as the new principal of Hurlbutt. Ms. Kaddis comes to Weston with extensive experience as an elementary school principal. She is currently Principal of Hayestown Elementary School in Danbury, and has served in that position since 2002. Dr. Palmer noted that not only is she an excellent educator but she comes to Weston with a unique set of traits, since the Kaddis family lives in Weston and all 4 of her girls attend Hurlbutt.

There was not a quorum at the ATBM meeting Wednesday night, therefore no further changes were made to the proposed budget, which goes to vote as it stands.

Other news:

US News & World Report ranked Weston High school 3<sup>rd</sup> best high school in Connecticut and 240<sup>th</sup> 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.

On May 11, The Special Olympics will be held on the Weston school campus. There are still slots available if you would like to volunteer.

Correction 4/11:

Last week it was incorrectly stated that the two members who voted against the cut have children in the schools, that is incorrect, Steve Ezzes does not have children in the school.

Sandra Hart, [sandy@sundial.com](mailto:sandy@sundial.com)  
BOE Representative

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**HES PTO JOINT BOARD LUNCHEON**

Please save the date for our HES Joint Board Luncheon held on May 29th, at Aspetuck Country Club; invitation and details to follow. Please contact Kim Grogan at [6grogans@gmail.com](mailto:6grogans@gmail.com) with questions. This is a lovely way to celebrate our 2012-13 contributions to the school and to look ahead to 2013-14 school year.

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**HES STAFF APPRECIATION DAY - Wednesday, May 8, 2013.**

Please help us show our gratitude to all the HES teachers and valued staff by supporting our celebration to be held on Wednesday, May 8th! We will be providing a luncheon for all of the teachers and staff. In addition, we will provide beautiful flower bouquets as a symbol of our appreciation.

Please visit our online form ([click here](#)) for volunteer opportunities and/or to bring in luncheon items so the entire staff at HES can enjoy lunch. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Don't forget your stems for the morning of the 8th! This year your child will have the option to bring flowers directly to their classroom teacher, or you can purchase flowers online through the Weston Middle School's fundraising website and have them delivered. Please note that the last day to order flowers online will be Friday, April 26th at noon.

To order flowers through the WMS go to [www.westonpspto.org](http://www.westonpspto.org) and click the flower link. The deadline is Friday.

Thank you in advance for your support of this special day.

Staff Appreciations Day Committee,  
Jen Socha, Shawn Amato, Catherine McCarthy

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**MEMORIAL DAY NEWS!**

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

Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 10pm  
Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 10pm  
Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 10pm  
Mon May 27<sup>th</sup> noon – 4pm

**Orders for discounted unlimited ride bracelet coupons and commemorative fair**

**shirts must be completed no later than 10:00pm on April 30<sup>th</sup>!**

Click [HERE](#) to purchase.

For an order to be complete, it must be paid in full via credit card on the PTO website. You will have two confirmations for a completed order, one which will be a payment confirmation. Please make sure you have paid for your order. We don't want anyone to be disappointed as any unpaid orders will not be processed.

Fair t-shirts are \$15 and the always popular tank tops are \$18. Adult and youth sizes are available. Unlimited ride bracelets can be used Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening from 6pm – 10pm only. You may purchase an unlimited bracelet coupon now for \$25. Unlimited ride bracelets purchased at the fair will be \$30. The coupon will be redeemed at the fair for your unlimited ride bracelet. Thank you and see you at the fair!!!

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### **MEMORIAL DAY FAIR COMMUNITY BOOTH**

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

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### **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.

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### **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 6<sup>th</sup>: 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](http://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.

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### ***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.

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### **APRIL 2013 NUTRITION NEWS**

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

Jill Patterson RD, Resident Dietitian  
Chartwells School Dining Services

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### ***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.

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### ***AROUND TOWN***

[Click here for School Flyers & Around Town Info on our website!](#)

### **WESTON LITTLE LEAGUE**

This summer, Weston Little League will offer District, Travel and Sandlot programs for our players. We are very excited that our Summer participation continues to increase every year and we encourage every Weston Little League kid who wants to actively play more baseball to join the fun and more competitive experience that they will remember for a long time! The deadline to pre-register for District or Travel is May 5<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) to register online today!

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

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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### **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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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

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### **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](mailto:goDOGmusic@gmail.com)

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### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Weston Public Schools will be hosting the Southwest Regional games for Special Olympics again this year on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Russo at 201-291-1405 or [andrearusso@westonps.org](mailto: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

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### **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](http://www.westonyouthservices.org). Online registration is currently underway!

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### **WESTON YOUTH SERVICES**

Weston Youth Services continues their Tackling the Tough Stuff series next Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> with a lunch workshop at the Weston Field Club.

Discomfort and Dialogue with Guest Speaker Jaqueline Lapa Sussman  
Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>

12-1:30 pm – A light lunch will be provided  
Weston Field Club - 38 Ladder Hill Road South

Conversations about sex, alcohol, and drugs can often be uncomfortable for both parents and their children. Come for lunch and learn how particular topics stir particular emotions, and how to deal with feelings of discomfort when trying to have an open dialogue with children.

Jaqueline Lapa Sussman, MS, LPC, is a psychotherapist, author, and lecturer and one of the foremost practitioners of eidetic image psychology. She has delivered lectures and seminars worldwide, and is a longtime Weston resident. She is the author of several books (including *Images of Desire and Freedom from Failure*) and numerous articles, and writes a monthly self-help column for *Total Health* magazine.

If you would like to attend the upcoming session please RSVP to [malbright@westonct.gov](mailto:malbright@westonct.gov). For more information about the series please visit [www.westonyouthservices.org](http://www.westonyouthservices.org) which also features corresponding resources including articles, book recommendations, and helpful organizations and websites.

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### **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](http://www.norfieldgrange.com).

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### **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.

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### **WESTON TROJAN FOOTBALL & CHEER**

Weston Youth Trojans Football & Cheerleading Meeting & Registration:  
WYTFC will hold an informational town meeting for all students and parents interested in learning more about the youth football and cheerleading programs on THURSDAY, April 4th. The meeting will be held at the Weston High School Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. and will be attended by the program's Board of Directors and coaches available to provide detailed information about the cheer and football programs and answer all questions.

Online registration and additional information is available at [www.trojansfootball.org](http://www.trojansfootball.org) for Flag Football (Grades 1-3), Tackle Football (Grades 4-8) and Cheerleading (Grades 1-8). [Click here](#) for flyer.

[Click here](#) for flag football clinic flyer and [click here](#) for football camp flyer.

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### **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](http://www.freshair.org) or contact Martha Mintzer, Fund Representative, 203-226-6627 [martha\\_mintzer@yahoo.com](mailto:martha_mintzer@yahoo.com)

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### **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](http://www.westonarts.com). Should you have questions, email us at [info@westonarts.org](mailto:info@westonarts.org).

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### **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](http://www.weston5k.com) or in person on race day.

Not a runner, but want to show your community spirit? For a donation of \$50 you can have your family name printed on the front of the race day t-shirt! For more information go to our PTO website, [www.westonpspto.org](http://www.westonpspto.org) and click on the "MD5K T-shirt Sponsorship" tab!

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### **BROWNIE TROOP COLLECTION FOR WILDLIFE IN CRISIS**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:toadfan@me.com) or Terry Cho at [kixxmann@aol.com](mailto:kixxmann@aol.com) with any questions.

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### **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.

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*Submissions should be relevant to Hurlbutt and the Town of Weston (i.e., town sports programs, Town of Weston sponsored community events or after-school sports programs for students taking place in the Town of Weston). If there is any question regarding the relevance of a submission, final approval will be determined by The Hurlbutt Scoop editor and/or the Hurlbutt PTO President. Submission deadline is Tuesday – The Hurlbutt Scoop is emailed to all registered PTO Members on Thursday!*

- All write-ups should be in WORD format and the content should be print-ready,
- If you have a flyer, please submit a brief write-up and we will attach the flyer to the newsletter,
- If you want to re-run something from the previous week, let us know; review the write-up - does it need updating, i.e., change the wording from "coming home this week" to "you should have received last week"? If so, revise and resubmit,
- The email address for the Scoop is [hesptoscoop@gmail.com](mailto:hesptoscoop@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support and cooperation.