



The Hurlbutt Buzz

The Hurlbutt Elementary School Newsletter

October 9, 2014

(no. 7)

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS & MEETINGS

Oct 10	LAST DAY TO ORDER HURLBUTT DOLLARS FOR BOOK FAIR	Click here to purchase
Oct 13	No School for Students	Teachers' Professional Development Day
Oct 14-17	Send in spare change for the Annual Coin Drive to purchase books for Kid Power Tutoring and Bridgeport Rescue Mission	Continues during Book Fair
Oct 15	PTO Philanthropy Meeting	North House at 9:30 am
Oct 16	Math in Focus Workshop for K (1- 2 invited, too) parents	See below for am and pm times
Oct 17	BOX TOPS DUE	Send them in with your student
Oct 20	Board of Education Meeting	WMS LRC at 7:30 pm
Oct 20-24	Hurlbutt Book Fair	Sign up to volunteer for your student's class
Nov 13 and 14	Delayed Opening for Parent- Teacher Conferences K-8	
Nov 17	Early Dismissal for Parent- Teacher Conferences K-8	

TOPICS THIS WEEK

- PTO President's Message
- Math in Focus Workshops for Parents
- HES Annual Coin Drive/Book Fair/Volunteer Opportunities
- Philanthropy Meeting - Oct. 15 at 9:30 am
- HES Yearbook 2014-15 Photography Coordinators Wanted
- PTO Marketplalce - Box Tops Due Oct. 17
- Weston Flu Clinic for Families is TODAY
- Weston Public Library - Animal Embassy returns Oct. 11
- Cub Scouts Recruitment
- Call for Community Education Grant Applications to WEF
- Weston Parks & Rec Dept

PTO AND SCHOOL NEWS

PTO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you read my newsletter in the Buzz last week (I'm going to assume that you did because as far as I know EVERYONE reads the Buzz) you will recall that I promised not to bother you this week with any real information and would instead go back to my usual nonsense-filled newsletters. Well I lied. Heck, I also promised that I would write shorter sentences and you can see how that is going. Ok, to be fair, I didn't really lie because at the time I had intended to do it. But then I took a look at the calendar and all the fun stuff coming up and I realized that I would have to include real information in this newsletter as well. So I didn't really lie so much as I failed to make good on a promise. That's so much better than lying. Anyway, in exchange for your forgiveness, I will condense the real information into as short a space as possible. Sound good? Thanks.

I would be remiss if I didn't start by letting you know that photo day happened last week. Now you knew that already, so I'd better add something new to the mix or else you're going to get upset with me for telling you stuff that you already knew. Well, thanks to the hard work of Photo Day Chair Christine Harris, photo day went off without a hitch and, more importantly, without my having to do any real work. Sure, I sent emails saying nice things like "let me know if you need anything" and "I'll help out as needed" but in the end I didn't need to actually do anything. So I get credit for helping without having to do any real work. If that's not the American dream folks, I don't know what is. Seriously though, thanks to Christine and the dozens of parents who volunteered to help out, photo day was a huge success. Although there are too many people to mention here by name, I would like to take a moment to individually thank Diana Milne, Amy Jansen, Janet Aspen, Stacey Barenberg and Elana Faiman who each stayed for the better part of the day to help Christine

out. Without volunteers like you, I would have to do real work, and I think you know how I feel about that. So thank you.

Going forward, there are two super important things I want to tell you about. The first is our book fair and the charity coin drive associated with it. If you read the blurb below, you will learn important details about everything book fair related including but not limited to answers to questions such as “when is it?” and “what do I need to do?” These are two very important things you need to know about the book fair so you should definitely read the information below. What I can tell you, however, is that we got new signs this year to advertise the book fair, so “bee” sure to look out for them. When you see them then you’ll get the joke I just made. You might start laughing hysterically while driving and you might even spit hot coffee out on your windshield while travelling at what might be a slightly higher than posted rate of speed. Hmm...I need to be more careful with my jokes.

The second important thing that I wanted to tell you about is the upcoming math workshop. You should go to this because according to your child, you don’t know how to do math. This stems mostly from the fact that when we learned math we were still using stone tablets and chisels and kids these days have these crazy contraptions known as computers. But even more than that, the way kids learn math has changed drastically since we were kids. Ice cream has also changed since we were kids, and now they have something called frozen yogurt. But I digress. Seriously, though, math education has changed over time. I don’t want to spoil the surprise, but when we were kids the focus was on using preset algorithms to solve problems in an often repetitive and tedious manner. These days, children learn to develop conceptual understandings of different mathematical ideas and build a repertoire of problem solving strategies. Sounds confusing right? That’s because it is. And that’s why you need to go to this workshop, so you will be unconfused. Speaking of confusion, I think now you can probably imagine your child’s confusion when you look at him and say “that’s not the way you do it, you’re supposed to cross that off and carry the one and put the seven down there and then you have your answer.” We might as well be speaking Latin. Anyway, the whole point of this is not to make you feel bad, but to motivate you to take the time to attend one of these very important upcoming math workshops. As always, details such as date, time, how to RSVP, etc. can be found in the informational portion of the Buzz. I will give a big hug (or high five if you’re not a hugger) to everyone who sees me next week and can successfully tell me what the informational portion of the Buzz actually is.

Until then, have a great rest of your week.

Yours,

Dan

MATH IN FOCUS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

K – 2 *Math in Focus* Hurlbutt Training Room

Thurs. Oct. 16th, 10:00 – 11:15 AM and 7:00 – 8:15 PM

3 – 5 *Math in Focus* WIS Room 118

Thurs. Oct. 23rd, 10:00 – 11:15 AM and 7:00 – 8:15 PM

2 – 5 *Bar Modeling Workshop* WIS Room 118

Thurs. Nov. 6th, 10:00 – 11:15 AM and 7:00 – 8:15 PM

HES ANNUAL BOOK FAIR NEWS

The annual Hurlbutt Elementary School Book Fair will be October 20th-24th .

COIN DRIVE: Last year's Coin Drive was a HUGE success, raising over \$1,000! We hope to do even better this year. We are asking students to bring in any spare change each day during the week of October 14th-17th. The coin drive, which will continue at the fair, will raise money to go towards the purchase of books for Kid Power Tutoring and Bridgeport Rescue Mission. In addition, in exchange for every dollar we raise, Scholastic will donate a book to the national organizations: Kids in Need Foundation and Kids in Distressed Situations. Books donated will benefit children enduring natural disasters as well as inner city and rural areas with literacy needs throughout the US. Last year as a result of our efforts, 1000 books were donated!

Hurlbutt Dollars will be available to purchase in denominations of \$5,\$10,and \$20 online through the PTO. If you are interested in purchasing Hurlbutt Dollars for grades K-2 for use during the Scholastic Book Fair October 20-24, please do so by October 10th using this

link <https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=70462&org=westonpspto.org> or visit the HES tab at www.westonpspto.org. It is a great way to get the children excited and involved, while giving them some independence and responsibility. Even if you will be at the fair with them, they take great pride in paying with their special Hurlbutt Dollars. It is also a great way to say thanks to the wonderful teachers at our school!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: If you would like to volunteer at the book fair please click here:

www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4BACA629A64-hurlbutt1

There are lots of opportunities to help out and have fun! Thanks for your participation in this great fundraiser! If you have any questions please contact Stacy Barenberg at stacyrbarenberg@yahoo.com

PHOTO DAY AND RETAKE DAY UPDATE

School Photo Day was a complete success last week. Many thanks to all the volunteers who took the time to help out. The day ran incredibly smoothly thanks to you.

Photos will be delivered via your child's backpack by early November. In the event your child's photo needs to be retaken, Photo RETAKE DAY is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th. Please make sure to send your child in with the original set of photos for their retake. For any questions regarding your photo package, please contact our account representative at Coffee Pond: Lisa Parker, at lisa@coffeepond.com. Thank you!

PHILANTHROPY MEETING

Please join us for a Philanthropy meeting on Wednesday, October 15th at 9:30 am in North House. This is a great opportunity to have a voice in how our fundraising money can add value to the school. For more information, please contact Katia Colaprico atcolaprico@gmail.com.

HES YEARBOOK 2014-15

Photography Coordinators

It's that time of year when we start asking for photos for the yearbook. We are inviting all parents to share the awesome photos they take during the school year with their individual Class Room Photo Coordinator. Everyone should have received an email inviting them to sign up as their class Photo Coordinator. Volunteers have already started to sign up and we're looking forward to working with them this year. Many classes still need a volunteer. If you're interested, please follow this link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48aaa922a5f94-photo>

Please feel free to contact the year book Chairs, Christine Harris or Ann Kyle with any questions at hesyearbook1415@yahoo.com

PTO MARKETPLACE

Feed your family and earn money for Hurlbutt!

Starting this month, we've got two super easy ways to earn money for Hurlbutt:

1. Click here <http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus/register-card/> and register your *Stop and Shop card* for Hurlbutt. Every time you shop, use your card and a percentage of your total will go to Hurlbutt! It doesn't get easier than that ;)

NEW THIS YEAR: If you registered your card last year, *you DO NOT need to re-register* this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more Cash for our school.

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

****Phone numbers may not be used to designate.***

If you do not know your 13-digit STOP & SHOP CARD number, call the Card Hotline at 1-877-366-2668 and select OPTION #2

2. ***Calling all Box Top clippers!*** We need your submissions by Friday, Oct. 17th!! The winning student and teacher will get gift certificates to the Scholastic book fair which starts the Oct. 20th. And Hurlbutt wins from everyones' efforts. Clip away!

SCHOOLA: BETTER CLOTHING DRIVE

In 2012, an organization called Schoola was launched. The concept is simple...schools or individuals collect gently used clothing and send it to Schoola, Schoola sells the clothing online at amazing prices, and the proceeds go to the schools that sent in the clothing—money that funds all those programs so critical to the success of our

kids. A win for all.

Hurlbutt Elementary School has opened an account with Schoola. We hope you will join us to raise funds for our school. You have 2 very simple options: (1) send gently used children's clothing (good brands sell more easily) in with your child and have him/her drop it in the box labeled Schoola at the main entrance; or (2) go online to www.schoola.com and request a bag. When you get it, fill it with great clothes that you no longer need, and send it back free of charge. Super simple!

AROUND TOWN

FLU CLINIC FOR WESTON FAMILIES

The Westport Weston Health Department is offering a flu shot clinic to Weston Students and their families. It will be held (one time only) at Weston High School on October 9th from 4 – 6pm. Parents must accompany children to clinic.

They accept Anthem, Cigna, Connecticare and Aetna. Participants must bring their insurance cards to appointments for billing purposes. \$45 without insurance. Click [here](#) for the form.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION WEEK

Weston Fire-EMS is hosting our Annual Open House this Saturday, October 11, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm - in conjunction with National Fire Protection Week.

WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

SCORE: Running a World Class eCommerce Business

Thursday, October 9th at 6 PM

The Weston Public Library is pleased to announce a partnership with SCORE. SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. Are you looking to build a successful business online, promote an existing "brick and mortar" business on the Web, or just sell some stuff from your attic on eBay? Join SCORE and presenter Cliff Ennico for this informative program.

Animal Embassy-Halloween Creatures and Critters

Saturday, October 11th at 4 PM

Join Animal Embassy for a discussion of the origins of fear while meeting incredible live Animal Ambassadors! We'll turn fear into respect and appreciation by learning about animal behavior and appearance. Meet a pink-toed tarantula, a boa constrictor and more! Sponsored by Friends of the Weston Library. For children 4 and older.

Minecraft Meet up and Lego Workshop

Sunday, October 12th from 12 Noon – 2 PM

The Darien Library created a Fairfield County Minecraft Server and the Weston Public Library has its own world! The server is designed to be a safe environment for kids and teens (aged 8-16) to build, collaborate, and be creative. Come to the Weston library with your library card, your Minecraft player name and a parent or guardian and we can add you to the server. Bring your computer and stay awhile to play. We'll also have Legos available for younger builders.

New Yorker Roundtable

Tuesday, October 14, 21, 28 at 11:45AM

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Weston Public Library and the Weston Library Board of Trustees, *The New Yorker* roundtable is a community discussion group where participants talk about news events, the arts, politics and more! It is moderated by Diana Loevy. Issues are available at the Library for non-subscribers who would like to join the group.

Movie Night Feature Film – *Million Dollar Arm* (PG)

Wednesday, October 15th at 7 PM

A sports agent stages an unconventional recruitment strategy to get talented Indian cricket players to play Major League Baseball. Starring Alan Arkin, Jon Hamm, and Aasif Mandvi. Sponsored by the Friends of the Weston Public Library.

Wednesday Evening Book Club – *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

Wednesday, October 15th 7:30 PM

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. - Amazon

Masterworks Conversations Presents: *The Magic of Folklore*

Sunday, October 19th at 3 PM

The Weston Public Library Board of Trustees welcomes back Masterwork Conversations for a classical piano concert. The two most exciting collections of piano duets are undoubtedly the Hungarian Dances by Brahms and the Slavonic Dances by Dvořák, and their power to captivate and inspire only grows with time. Join Matthew and Vlada for impressive playing and enlightening discussions of the selected pieces.

Miss Joy's Annual Summer Reading Monster Mash

Wednesday, October 29th at 6:30 PM

Attention all Weston Public Library Summer Readers! Miss Joy will host her spooktacular summer reading Halloween Monster Mash party on Oct. 29th!

There will be stories, snacks, games and prizes!

Keep an eye on the mail for your invitation and don't forget to come in costume!

Probate Judge Lisa Wexler: An Overview of Probate

Thursday October 30th at 11 AM

Lisa Wexler is a judge, an attorney, an award-winning talk radio host and the creator and executive producer of The Lisa Wexler Show. She was elected as Probate Judge for the Westport/Weston Judicial District in Connecticut in November 2013. Join Judge Wexler for an overview of probate followed by a Q&A session on a variety of topics.

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Friends of the Weston Public Library

Email: friendsofthewestonlibrary@gmail.com

Blog: <http://FriendsoftheWestonPublicLibrary.wordpress.com/>

And follow us on Facebook

CUB SCOUTS

From hiking to camping to crafts to spending a night on an aircraft carrier, the Weston Cub Scouts are always doing something fun. It's not too late to join! Boys in grades 1st-5th can register at any time at westonpack75.org or contact Gai Bos at guy3bos@gmail.com for more information.

WESTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION Call for Community Education Grant Applications

The Weston Education Foundation (WEF) is calling for applications for their Community Education Grants Program.

“The purpose of these grants is to provide funds up to \$1,500 to Weston-based organizations or individuals to develop educational programs that benefit their constituents and/or Weston residents,” said Lois Guberman, Chair, Grants Committee. “Preference is given

to organizations that can demonstrate sustainable funding for their project after the completion of the WEF grant.”

Since its inception, WEF has disbursed more than \$800,000 in community, technology and teacher grants,” noted Foundation President, Eileen Sawyer. “Previous Community Education Grants have helped fund a journal writing program at our public library, computer classes at the Senior Center, and most recently the Norfield Children’s Center was awarded grant monies to purchase materials to develop STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Math) problem solving skills.”

There are two grant cycles available: The first is from September 1-October 15; the second is from February 15-April 1. Community organizations must wait for 12 months to apply for another grant if they are a current grant recipient.

To learn more about the Weston Education Foundation’s Community Education Grants Program or to obtain an application, please go directly to our website at www.westoneducationfoundation.org for a copy of the grant application. If you have any questions, please email grants@westoneducationfoundation.org.

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The following after school Weston Parks & Recreation flyers are now on the Town website: Sports & Fitness, Running Club, Lulu hoops and Aquatic lessons.

NO SWIM LESSONS ON SATURDAY, OCT. 11th.

If you are interested in registering for these programs go to www.westonct.gov and view the flyers.

Please follow the registration procedures as the registration dates vary.