

The Hurlbutt Buzz



UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Jan. 15	PTO General Meeting (9:15 coffee; 9:30 start at SH Cafeteria) – Ms. Kus will discuss PBIS and Tim Lawler, BOE Rep will discuss the budget process
Jan. 20	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 21	No School – Professional Development Day
Jan. 22	PTO Philanthropy Meeting (9:30 am at NH5)
Feb. 14	Early Dismissal/Teacher Prof. Dev.
Feb. 17-18	No School February Recess

PTO & SCHOOL NEWS

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Welcome back! After an extra long hiatus we are back in school, and the Buzz is back with all the latest and greatest information you could ever possibly want. As a way of easing you back into the school thing, I promise to keep it short. And that has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that I'm so out of practice after taking three weeks off that I'm finding it hard to write this week's newsletter. Really. Totally unrelated.

What better way to ring in 2014 than to talk about something that happened in 2013? Before I go any further I have to take a moment to thank Darcy Barrera and Jen Morse for all of their hard work on the holiday gift basket event. As you know, the organization that we used to work with for this event no longer exists, and Darcy and Jen worked tirelessly to find a new organization that could benefit from our efforts. In the end, we looked right here in Weston and partnered up with Michele Albright and Weston Youth Services to deliver our holiday gift baskets. The feedback we received from parents was wonderful and the contributions were generous and most appreciated. Thank you to Jen and Darcy, as well as all the other volunteers and those who participated.

Now, one quick business thing and one quick non-business thing and we're done, so stick with me here. Our next PTO General meeting is this upcoming Wednesday(January 15) at 9:30 in the South House Cafeteria. Be sure to show up early if you want first pick of the refreshments! Among other things we will have a PBIS update from Kim Kus, a budget process update from Tim Lawler (complete with shiny handouts) and our usual exciting PTO business. Plus, as an added bonus, immediately afterwards we will have the first of our two long range planning meetings. At this particular meeting we will be reviewing and updating the bylaws. YAY! I know it sounds boring, but believe me, it is. (See what I did there?) But don't worry, you can feel free to show up to the first part of the meeting and leave when we segue into the boring stuff.

Finally, also on January 15th is something that I believe is important, and thought that we should share with you. There will be two screenings of the film *Race to Nowhere* held at the Connecticut Friends School in Wilton. If you're not familiar with this film, it deals with the role of homework in the American educational system and the impact it is having on the wellbeing of our children. It is a very powerful film and I strongly suggest that you try to find the time to attend the second showing (because the first conflicts with our PTO meeting, which I know you will be at, right?) Anyway, more information can be found by clicking here: <http://www.racetonowhere.com/state-screenings/CT> . Tickets are free, but you do need to preregister. If you haven't seen it already, I strongly recommend you check it out!

That's it for this week. I think I kept it pretty short. Lots of information, very little tomfoolery, about the best you can hope for. Have a great week!

Yours,
Dan and Tammy

BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW

By Tim Lawler

Shared Space - Public Comments

Every Board of Education General Meeting opens with an opportunity for residents to ask questions and/or state opinions. The comments and questions are not immediately addressed by the board. They are recorded and discussed by the board later that evening, in executive session, or in following meetings.

There were two public comments at the beginning the Board of Education General Meeting on December 16, 2013. Each was related to shared space:

Weston Students First

Weston Students First is a nonpartisan group to educate Weston, CT residents on issues affecting our students and help them activate to improve our impact on elected officials. Statement was read by Darcy Barrera-Hawes (Weston Resident).

Weston Students First respectfully requested that the Weston Board of Education no

longer consider the potential proposal of public offices co-mingled with any school building.

See her letter at <https://leagueathletics.com/Page.asp?n=63557&org=westonpspto.org>

Katie Gregory

Katie is a Weston resident. She discussed the:

- three latest events involving schools & gun violence (since the 11/25/13 BOE Meeting)
- new normal for students, facility and administrators
- and requested (again) that the BOE eliminate co-mingling as an option in the current facility study.

See her letter [here](#):

Shared Space / Co-mingling Update

There was NO discussion by the BOE about the public schools space renovation study, police renovation study, or potential changes to Weston Public School System.

The Space Renovation Study is currently underway and DRAFT plans are expected for public discussion by January 2014.

If you want to hear more about Facilities Review & other Weston School projects: Please attend monthly Board of Education Meetings and BOE - Facilities Committee Meetings. Monthly meetings are opened to the public. Please see www.westonps.org for meeting times and agendas.

If you have immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Weston Board of Education, Superintendent Colleen Palmer and PTO with questions and concerns. Contact information is available at www.westonps.org

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2014-2015 school year has started. Please register you children early as soon as possible. It is extremely important that the school has the most accurate enrollment numbers for planning next year's budget and teacher placement.

HES-PTO Present Gifts

The HES PTO was delighted to present the following to the elementary school:

- Bee Mascot Costume
- Stakes for Memorial Seating Area Tables
- LRC Re-imaging Project
- First Grade Carpet Squares

The HES PTO is committed to supporting the district's overall curriculum. They look forward to another successful year of fundraising, so they can continue to support our children and school.

Annual Energy Update

The Weston Public School Energy Reduction Program reviewed the Fourth Year Cost Avoidance & Environmental Impact Report. This amazing program created a 4 year nets savings of \$1,565,000 and continued savings into the future.

Energy awards received by WPS:

- 2011 US Environmental Protection Agency Energystar Leader Award
- 2012 Energy Education Pacesetter Award - Greater than 30% Reduction in Energy Use
- 2013 Connecticut Power of Change Award - First Honors as Top Public School in CT

2014-2015 Budget Development Update

Preliminary budget numbers are suggesting (more than) 3% raise.
Budget Draft will be available to public in January.

Board of Education Meeting

Monday, December 27, 2013 @ 6:00 pm
Weston Middle School LRC
Agenda TBD

Board of Education - Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 @ 4:00 pm
Office of the Director of Finance & Operations
Agenda TBD

Please see www.westonps.org for full meeting agenda(s)

HES PTO NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The following volunteers have agreed to serve on the 2014-2015 nominating committee. They will be presented to membership at next week's general meeting. Katie Gregory, Chair, Eliza Tabacchi, Darcy Barrera-Hawes, Kimberly Brown, Christine Harris, Lisa Moskal (alt).

HES PTO LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETING

Please join us for a Long Range Planning Meeting to discuss PTO bylaws on Wednesday, 1/15 at 10am in the South House cafeteria. It will be held immediately following the PTO General Meeting. Questions or comments: Katia Colaprico colaprico@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN

ATTENTION 2nd GRADE PARENTS

Here's your chance to be involved at WIS next year - the WIS PTO Nominating Committee wants you! Please consider nominating yourself, or someone else, for a position on the WIS PTO Board for the 2014-15 school year. [Click here](#) for our online

form.

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

A Message from Weston Youth Services ...

We are very excited about our line-up of Winter WOW! After –School programs, which are scheduled to begin the week of January 13th. With that said, we wanted to remind you of the following:

- Please be sure to send in an alternate dismissal note, in duplicate, **each** day that your child is attending one of our WOW! programs. Included in your dismissal note, please include alternate dismissal plans in the event of a cancellation of afternoon activities due to inclement weather. This will help your child's teacher know their afternoon release plans and alleviate any last minute confusion.
- Please be prompt in picking up your child at the end of their program. All classes end promptly at 4:15 p.m. Parents are asked to wait outside by the South House Cafeteria double doors, where they will be met to receive their child(ren). Students are not released through the main entrance of the building.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Charlene Monn, Program Coordinator, at [203-222-2586](tel:203-222-2586) or email cmonn@westonct.gov.

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION

NEW WINTER FLYERS with information on winter Sports & Fitness for K-2, basketball, dancercise, and other great programs are available on Weston's Park and Recreation [website](#).

WESTON SOCCER

Spring registration for the Recreation programs (Tots through Grade 1) and Junior Academy (Grade 2) is now open!

The spring season will begin the first week of April and end on June 7.

Please see the program descriptions for each age group under the top tabs. More specific information including costs, late fees and program dates may be found on the

Register Online page.

In general, regular registration runs through midnight, February 23, and late registration will continue on a space-available basis with a late fee included through March 23. However, only registrations completed during regular registration are guaranteed placement.

Click on Register Online at www.westonsoccer.com and scroll down to find the program that you need for your child.

WESTON LACROSSE REGISTRATION

Registration for Weston's 2014 Girls and Boys Spring Youth Lacrosse programs are now open. Entering our 16th season the WLC has provided hundreds of girls & boys the opportunity to learn and play this great sport. This season we are offering programs for new and experienced girls in grades 2-8 and for boys in grades 1-8.

The youth programs are designed to teach and support the game of lacrosse in an environment of safety, respect & fun!!

The youth programs also serve as the foundation for the Weston High School Lacrosse programs which based on last year's results alone - State Class S Championships for both the Girls & Boys has proven very successful in developing players with solid skills and a sustained love of the game. Additionally, many former WLC youth players have gone on to play at the college level.

Registration details for each program are available at www.westonlax.com under the "Register Online" section of the website.

Please note that detailed times, dates and locations of games & practices for the various programs are still TBD but the sooner we get participants registered the sooner we can provide that information.

Don't delay sign up today!!!!

Thank you for your continued support,
WLC

WESTON HS BOOSTERS

The Weston High School Boosters are collecting cans and bottles for recycling at the Onion Barn again. 100% of the money raised from the collections help WHS Boosters purchase athletic equipment that the current school budget doesn't cover, such as swimming blocks, cheerleading and wrestling mats, and new soccer goals. The money is also used to contribute to the club's two turf fund accounts.

Members of the public may drop off recyclable cans and bottles at the rear side of the Onion Barn on Saturday mornings from 9 to noon. Each week, WHS athletes separate and bag them for the redemption company to collect once a month. They will even help

unload them from a car. For more information, contact Ira Saferstein at ira@titancapital.com.

WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Here are the programs at the Weston Public Library in January. All programs are free and open to the public.

Wednesday Evening Book Club – *Where'd You Go Bernadette* by Maria Semple Wednesday, January 15 at 7:30 PM

Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears. It began when Bee aced her report card and claimed her promised reward: a family trip to Antarctica. But Bernadette's intensifying allergy to Seattle--and people in general--has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands. A trip to the end of the earth is problematic. To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence--creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world." - Amazon

Movie Night Feature Film – *The Butler* (PG-13) Wednesday, January 22nd at 7 PM

As Cecil Gaines serves eight presidents during his tenure as a butler at the White House, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and other major events affect this man's life, family and American society. Starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey.

Minecraft Meet Up Sunday, January 26 12 Noon – 2 PM

The Darien Library created a Fairfield County Minecraft Server and the Weston Public Library has its own world! This project is designed to bring Fairfield Country Minecrafters together. 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.

***The New Yorker* Roundtable**

The roundtable will begin again in February. Dates to be announced

For more information on this event and additional programs and services, visit www.westonpubliclibrary.org or call 203-222-2665.

SUBMISSIONS

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 Buzz Editor and/or the Hurlbutt PTO President. Submission deadline is Tuesday – The Hurlbutt Buzz is emailed to all registered PTO Members on Thursday!

- 1. All write-ups should be in WORD format and the content should be print-ready,*
- 2. If you have a flyer, please submit a brief write-up and we will attach the flyer to the newsletter,*
- 3. 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,*
- 4. The email address for the Buzz is hesptonewsletter@westonpspto.org*

Thank you for your support and cooperation.