

The Hurlbutt Buzz



UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Jan. 25	Budget Workshop #3 Saturday, January 25 at 10 am in the middle school LRC
Jan. 27	Board of Education - Monthly Meeting Monday, January 27, 2013 @ 6:00 pm Weston Middle School LRC Agenda TBD
Feb. 14	Early Dismissal/Teacher Prof. Dev.
Feb. 17-18	No School. February Recess

PTO & SCHOOL NEWS

*CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The PTO needs you! Don't worry, not this very second, so please feel free to continue reading. And not just this newsletter, but all the informative stuff underneath as well. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes, the PTO needs you! What do we need exactly? I'm so glad you asked. We need you to volunteer for stuff. Now I know what some of you might be thinking...didn't he already ask us for volunteers earlier in the year? The answer is yes. But I'm both shameless and forgetful, so I'm asking again. And this time is different, because I'm asking you to volunteer for something specific.

Believe it or not, it's time to look at filling positions on the Executive and General PTO Boards for 2014-15 and nominations are open now! To volunteer yourself or someone you know (one is much easier than the other) please click on the following link:

<https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=57994&org=westonpspto.org>.

That should have opened the nominating window in a new page, but don't go there yet because unless you read the rest of this newsletter you will be hopelessly lost. Well, probably not, but I've got to do what I can to keep you

reading. Anyway, to prepare you for filling out this form I would like to share with you all of the stupid things that I did when I clicked on this form last year in the hopes that I will spare you the embarrassment that I endured (basically by myself until this very moment when I share my stories with the millions of readers of The Buzz and transform my embarrassment from private to public).

Mistake #1: I didn't understand that "nominate" was a fancy word that basically means to sign up for something. For weeks I sat by my computer, staring at all of the open positions, waiting to be contacted by the dozens of people who wanted to nominate me to do something. Nothing happened. It wasn't until I asked that I realized that nobody actually nominates anybody for anything (at least that's what they told me, possibly in truth and possibly in an effort to spare my feelings). So don't wait. If you see something that looks interesting...sign up!

Mistake #2: Once I did see something that I wanted to do, I didn't sign up for it because I wasn't sure if the person doing that job this year would be doing it next year. I was afraid that if they were, and I signed up for it, then I would have inadvertently thrown myself into the midst of a wild political race. With no extra time to campaign, debate or put those fancy signs up all over town, I simply didn't sign up. I now know that was wrong as well. Worst case scenario is that the person is returning and one of three things will likely happen. First, they might be relieved that someone else wants to do that job and they move onto something else. Second, they welcome the help and you can co-chair the committee with them. A LOT of our committees have co-chairs. Not only does it cut down on the work, but it makes it more fun as well. Or third, you get asked if you would like to fill another position instead. Each board position has the same salary and benefits, so no one position is more valuable than another.

Mistake #3: While perusing the nomination page I took a sip of hot chocolate without letting it cool down first and I burned my tongue. While not directly related to your potential experience with the nominating page, it's falls under the category of being a bit embarrassing while at the same time serving as a valuable cautionary tale for you, the loyal reader.

And there you have it! So please take a moment and think about what you'd like to do to help out next year and go ahead and nominate yourself. You'll be glad you did.

<https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=57994&org=westonpspto.org>

Thanks!
Dan and Tammy

***BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW**

By Tim Lawler

Weston BOE - Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

The Weston BOE Facilities Committee had an evening meeting to discuss the results of the Public School Space Study.

Silver/Perrucelli & Associates (Architect/Engineer/Interior Designer) was hired by the Town of Weston to evaluate the possible space consolidation of staff (town & school) into the middle school or elementary school, relocating the senior center, and potentially reconfiguring the the elementary and middle schools.

The Facilities Committee was provided 12 options from the architect. The BOE - Facilities Committee quickly eliminated 6 of the options. The remaining 6 options were discussed at the meeting. These options will be available on line at www.westonps.org

Public School Space Study Review

4 of the 6 options were discussed and eliminated from consideration. It was determined (for reasons of safety, educational needs, cost, and unpredictable future enrollment) that:

- Town Offices will **NOT** be moving into HES or WMS
- 2nd Grade will **NOT** be moving up to WIS
- 6th Grade will **NOT** be moving down to WIS
- WHS, WMS & WIS will **NOT** be impacted
- HES East House will **NOT** be impacted

The remaining options to be further considered (by the BOE - Facilities Committee) were:

Option #2

- Repurpose 2nd Floor of HES North House for 'specific' BOE offices
- 2nd Grade to remain on First Floor of HES North House
- Gymnasium remains intact and solely used for students
- Senior Center remains exactly as it is today

Option #6

- Repurpose 2nd Floor of HES North House for 'specific' BOE offices
- 2nd Grade to remain on First Floor of HES North House

- Gymnasium remains intact and solely used for students
- Expand Senior Center in current HES South House location
 - move playground
 - move senior center entrance (not visible from front of school)
 - construct separate parking lot in vicinity of current playground location

The HES Gymnasium will be solely used by students in both options.

The HES Multi-purpose Room will be restricted from students in both options.

These options are to be temporarily put on hold while the State of Connecticut completes the *Report of School Safety Infrastructure Council* (see below).

Playground Relocation

The potential relocation of HES North House playground was discussed. Safety regulations require a playground/student play area be a minimum of 50' from a roadway, driveway or parking lot. This might actually place all three HES playgrounds in violation.

The North House playground is the oldest playground on campus and requires the most maintenance. It will be monitored and discussions of relocating it will continue, but moving this playground (and others if necessary) will be temporarily put on hold while the State of Connecticut completes the *School Safety Infrastructure Standards* (see below).

School Safety Infrastructure Standards

The State of Connecticut is re-evaluating its role in ensuring the safety and security of the local educational facilities. They have recognized the need for emergency preparedness and response capabilities since the Newtown shootings. Connecticut state government has undertaken new initiatives that include the development of School Safety Infrastructure Standards (and School Security & Safety Plan Standards)

The School Infrastructure Standards are currently in *DRAFT* form, and will not be completed until July 1st (at the earliest).

Therefore, the BOE - Facilities Committee will be temporarily put on hold the:

- potential co-mingling of HES North House (select BOE offices)
- potential alterations of the co-mingling of HES South House (senior center)
- playground relocation plans

They will continue to prepare, research and discuss these options, but will not make any decision until the School Infrastructure Standards are complete.

Upcoming Meetings

BOE Monthly Meeting
January 27th @ 6:00 PM
Weston Middle School LRC

Agenda (see www.westonps.org)

***SOUPER BOWL – SOUP COLLECTION - JANUARY 30 AND 31**

As we get ready to celebrate the Super Bowl, Hurlbutt students will celebrate our annual “Souper Bowl”. Students can show their spirit by wearing their favorite team jersey or shirt (any team, any sport) and bring in a can of soup to be collected in each classroom on January 30 and 31. All collections will be donated to the Weston Food Pantry. Please make sure that items have not passed their expiration date. For more information, contact Darcy Barrera or Jen Morse, PTO Community Service Chairs.

***HES WALL CALENDAR**

2014 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 2014. The student whose work is selected to appear on the cover of the 2014/2015 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 14, 2014

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 the last day of school 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

Visit www.westonpspto.org under the HES tab to sponsor the wall calendar.

HES PTO BOARD NOMINATIONS

2014-2015 HES PTO Board

Volunteers make it happen! Interested in serving on the 2014-2015 PTO Board? Know someone who would be a great addition to the HES PTO Board? Please complete the online nomination form <https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=57994&org=westonpspto.org> to nominate yourself or a candidate. We welcome nominations of in-coming Kindergarten parents who would like to get involved as well! For questions, please contact Katie Gregory wnkgregory@optonline.net or [203-258-1925](tel:203-258-1925) cell.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Just a reminder, preparations for the kindergarten class of 2014-2015 are already underway. Children who will turn five years of age on or before January 1, 2015 are eligible to begin kindergarten next fall.

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 copies of proof of residency (telephone, gas or electric bill) and your child's birth certificate. You will need all of these documents to register your child.

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

NUTRITION NEWS

Jill Patterson is our district's resident dietitian. Please click here to read her nutrition updates.

AROUND TOWN

WMS SHORT WHARF presents...*Seussical Jr.

Friday, January 31, 2014, 8pm
Saturday, February 1, 2014, 3pm
Sunday, February 2, 2014, 3 pm

****Weston High School Auditorium****

All tickets can be purchased on-line at:

www.whscompany.com

Tickets also available at the door!

***WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

BRIDES OF WESTON

A fashion show featuring wedding dresses of yesterday and today

Saturday, February 22, 2014, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come join us at a reception with old fashioned wedding punch, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and mini wedding cakes. Vintage bridal gowns will be on display and at three o'clock there will be a promenade featuring members of the Weston Women's League modeling their own wedding dresses. There will also be a "find the bride" exhibit and contest to match Weston residents to their wedding pictures, with a delightful prize for the winner.

Weston Historical Society
104 Weston Road

DONATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON – \$5.00 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

***NORFIELD GRANGE**

FIDDLES, FARMS & FOOD!

Contra/Barn Dance at Weston's Norfield Grange

7 p.m. Saturday, February 8

Come on out for a fun community event, open to all!

Legendary dance caller Bill Fischer and his merry group of fiddlers headline "Fiddles, Farms & Food" Saturday, February 8th at 7pm at the Norfield Grange in Weston. Come to dance, watch, listen, or eat as we spice up the winter with an old-fashioned good time! No experience necessary -- Bill will explain the steps as we go.

Come early for chef Craig's award-winning veggie chili and corn bread, and bring a snack or dessert to share.

This event is a community-building collaboration sponsored by Wakeman Town Farm & the Norfield Grange in Weston.

Date: Saturday, February 8th, 2014 Time: 7:00 pm onward Address: Norfield Grange, 12 Goodhill Rd., Weston, CT Contribution: \$10/person, \$25/family RSVP & Questions: fiddles.farms.food@gmail.com

Co-sponsored by the Wakeman Town Farm & the Norfield Grange

***WESTON WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The moment has arrived!! Mardi Gras tickets are on sale! They are a reduced price until February 1st so don't delay! Get your tickets for the best party of the season. Please pass along to all your friends! We are transforming the Cobbs Mill into something you have never seen. The menu will be over the top, DJ Miles is making a return appearance, and we will have a photobooth to capture all the memories. <http://www.westonwomensleague.org/mardi-gras-spring->

[fundraiser.html](#)

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

REMINDERS regarding WOW programs:

- 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.

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.

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.