



The Hurlbutt Buzz

The Hurlbutt Elementary School Newsletter

November 20, 2014

(No. 13)

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

| Date | Event | Location |
|----------------|--|---|
| Nov 17-24 | The Mitten Project | Send in NEW hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to help those in need during the cold winter months with your students |
| Nov 26-28 | No School | Thanksgiving Recess |
| Dec 10 | Early Dismissal at 12:35 for HES and WIS | Professional Development |
| Dec 10 | Incoming K Registration Drop-off | 2-3 pm or 6-7 pm |
| Dec 15 | BOE Meeting | 7:30 pm WMS LRC |
| Dec 24 – Jan 2 | No School | Winter Recess |

http://www.westonps.org/uploaded/documents/Calendars/2014-2015_Calendars/Weston_Public_Schools_Calendar_2014-2015.pdf

TOPICS THIS WEEK

- PTO President's Message
 - HES Principal's Message
 - The Mitten Project at Hurlbutt Elementary School
 - Holiday Gift Basket Class Coordinator
 - Photo Retake Update
 - Kindergarten Registration
 - Nutrition News Healthy Holiday Store Tour
 - PTO Marketplace
 - Cub Scouts Trees & Wreaths at the Onion Barn
 - Weston Women's League Main Street Weston and Blood Drive
 - Weston Youth Services - event for parents today!
 - Weston Public Library
 - Weston Parks & Rec Dept Winter Offerings
 - Cub Scouts - Cake Auction
- Girl Scouts Help with Norwalk Hospital Toy Drive

PTO & SCHOOL NEWS

PTO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving! Don't worry, your calendar isn't broken, I know that it's not actually Thanksgiving today. But it will be next Thursday and we won't have a Buzz, so if I want to talk about Thanksgiving related type stuff this is my only chance. In case you were wondering, the stuff I'm going to be talking about being thankful for in this newsletter is all PTO and Hurlbutt related stuff, so there is actual real information to be found (well about as much information that is in any of my other newsletters...so not a lot).

This year I'm thankful for you, the loyal and in this particular case forgiving reader. You may have noticed that last week the President's Newsletter was replaced by a somewhat humorous and incredibly peculiar "under construction" message. Allow me to translate for you. "Under Construction" actually means "I forgot to write a newsletter". You probably knew that, but the fact that nobody called me out on it was much appreciated. So thanks.

While I'm talking about the newsletter, I wanted to say that I'm thankful for Catherine Revzon, the mad genius who puts together the entire Buzz week after week (and covers for me when I miss my deadlines without ever once complaining or making me feel bad). I'm pretty that if I had to do this job we'd all still be waiting for the first newsletter of the year, so thanks Catherine!

I'm also thankful for our Talent on Tap program that brings outside performers and professionals into the building to engage the kids in entertaining and informative assemblies and programs. Coordinated by our Grade Level chair Marlo Villepigue in conjunction with the grade level teacher team leaders, Talent on Tap brought a number of wonderful programs to Hurlbutt this year. First and second graders were able to transform themselves into real scientists with the

help of High Touch High Tech, an organization that designs scientific explorations that enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom. The kindergarteners were once again visited by Johnny the K who entertained the kids with his songs and funny hats all the while teaching them about kindness and friendship. These programs are a wonderful addition to the kids' experiences at Hurlbutt and they are not cheap. If you ever wondered what we do with all of the money we raise throughout the year, this is a fine example. So thanks.

Also, I'm thankful for everyone who volunteers to help make the PTO the amazing organization that it is. There are so many things that the PTO does to support Hurlbutt and we could not do any of it without the people who generously volunteer their time and resources. Please take a moment to click on the following link that lists all of the different committees and chairs we have working to make Hurlbutt the special place that it is. While you are reading, think about the different committees and which one of them you can see yourself volunteering for next year.

<http://westonpspto.org/Page.asp?n=38787&org=m.m.m.westonpspto.org> The nominating process for next year is right around the corner, and we would love it if you chose to become involved in one of these meaningful endeavors. Thanks.

Finally, I'm thankful for the amazing faculty, staff and administration we have at Hurlbutt. Having worked in three different schools in my time as a teacher I can honestly say that you will not find a more professional, caring, and dedicated group of people anywhere else. We truly are fortunate to have them with us, so thanks.

Well, that's about it for this week. Please note that this is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of things that I'm thankful for. I feel like one of those celebrities who wins an award and thanks this long list of people only to forget to mention his mother, agent, employer, spouse, mailman (I think they're called postal carriers now), psychic, accountant, college professor, baby name consultant (did you know that is a real thing?) or some other super important person who immediately feels snubbed. Let me tell you, this is a lot of pressure and if I'm being honest, I'm not sure I'm handling it well. In fact, I'm pretty sure that as soon as I submit this newsletter I'll think of a dozen more things and people that I forgot to mention. So for all of those people and things that I forgot to mention here; thanks. Whew, that was close.

Have a great week, weekend, and of course, happy Thanksgiving!

Yours,
Dan

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that it is November and that we have already been in school for several months. Our days are filled with learning and the

smiling faces of your amazing children. As the days continue to fly by, it seems that our warm, sunny weather will no longer be with us. Outdoor recess is an important part of our day and weather permitting, our students play outside year round. We encourage hats, coats, long pants and gloves or mittens for outdoor play. In the rare occurrence that extreme weather prohibits outdoor play, our children enjoy the novelty of indoor recess with a variety of game choices.

Best,
Laura Kaddis

THE MITTEN PROJECT

At Hurlbutt Elementary School!

We are collecting **NEW** hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to help those in need during the cold winter months.

Donations can be sent in from
Monday, November 17th- Monday, November 24th.
If you would like to donate, please bring items to your classroom.

All donations will benefit Bridgeport Elementary School Families following our November PBIS Assembly.

Hats, Gloves, Mittens, and Scarves can be for people of all ages.

The students will be having an assembly on Monday the 24th where Horace will be collecting all the mittens, hats and scarves and gloves from each class (each class decorated a mitten box with their buddy class to hold the donations and the students will be giving their boxes to Horace). We will continue to collect until next Monday. On Tuesday the 25th some of our staff will be bringing the donations to Bridgeport. If you need any more information just call or email Ms. Sullivan at megsullivan@westonps.org.

PHOTO RETAKE UPDATE

Photo retake day went very smoothly. Thank you for sending your students in with their old photos and/or forms. Everyone requesting a new portrait had a new photo taken successfully. The team at Coffee Pond is working very hard to turn these photos around quickly and we will update you as soon as we are expecting the delivery. Thanks again to all of the volunteers that helped out at this year's photo day! Your help was greatly appreciated! For any questions regarding your photo package, please contact our account representative at Coffee Pond: Lisa Parker, at lisa@coffeepond.com Thank you!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Preparations for the kindergarten class of 2015-2016 are already underway – a sure sign that the year is flying by! Children who will turn five years of age on or before January 1, 2016 are eligible to begin kindergarten next fall.

Opportunities to drop-off completed kindergarten registration packets will take place in Hurlbutt Elementary School's South House Cafeteria between 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2014. If you are unable to submit your registration packet at either of these times, please contact Laurie Eagle at (203) 557-5983.

Prior to December 10th, please complete and print the Infosnap forms from the Hurlbutt website. The link to the Hurlbutt "New Student Registration" is <http://www.westonps.org/page.cfm?p=5592>. Copy/paste the link into your internet browser for instructions to begin the registration process.

Materials and documents to bring to registration:

- Completed and printed Infosnap forms
- Proof of residency:
 - Warranty deed, and
 - Utility bill – telephone, gas or electric
- Copy of your child's birth certificate

Without all of these, your child cannot be registered.

An informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the South House Cafeteria. This will give you the opportunity to meet the administration, and to learn more about our kindergarten program.

Although it seems early for kindergarten registration, the information we collect will help us to budget accordingly and plan for the next school year. Should you have any questions, please call (203) 557-5983.

NUTRITION NEWS - HEALTHY HOLIDAY STORE TOUR

When: December 10th, 4-5 pm

Where: Norwalk Grade A ShopRite
360 Connecticut Avenue

- Learn to navigate the grocery store and plan healthy meals for your family!
- Discover how the school meal programs can help your family stay healthy throughout the season!

With Whom: Cora Ragiani, RDN Retail Dietitian at Grade A ShopRite and Jill Patterson, RDN Chartwells Dietitian for Weston Public Schools

NUTRITION NEWS - NOVEMBER 2014

“How do I get my kids to eat the same meals as us, so that I’m not preparing multiple meals?”

Planning, preparing and cooking a healthy meal for one person can be a lot of work. So when you add in family members who have different taste buds, this can be especially challenging! Here are some tips to quit being a short-order cook and enjoy family meals that suit a variety of preferences.

Plan a meal with 4 to 5 of the food groups (grain, protein, vegetables, fruit, dairy).

For example:

- Tacos made with lean ground beef or ground turkey, shredded cheddar, chopped romaine and diced tomatoes
- Chicken, vegetable and/or salad, brown rice or whole grain dinner roll, low-fat or non-fat milk

Children can pick and choose what they want from these offerings. You can make slight modifications, so you’re not cooking separate meals, but the foods might be more appealing to your picky eater.

You might notice one or all of these characteristics in your child.

The Plain Eater

For children who like plainer foods, you can try out different ways to present the same foods if that’s more appealing to your kids. For example, if you’re making chicken breasts with some type of seasoning, but your picky eater would prefer plain chicken, you can make a portion of the chicken plain.

The No-Mixing Eater

One of the common things I’ve seen among grade-school children is that many of them do not like their different foods to touch each other. Being aware of this can help you to present food in a more appetizing way for them by allowing them to serve themselves or being mindful of serving them a plate where the different foods do not

touch each other.

The Fun-to-Dip Eater

Many children like foods that they can dip. Maybe your child is not a big fan of salad, but they would enjoy dipping cucumber coins or baby carrot sticks or pepper strips (from the salad) into low-fat ranch dressing or another dip.

The Independent Eater

Students love customizing their meals. Allow your children to serve themselves, when possible. Foods like build your own taco, make your own sandwich, and choosing toppings on pizza are a big hit because children have a choice!

Jill Patterson, RD
Resident Dietitian

November 2014

Food Focus of the Month:

Red & Orange Vegetables:

Carrot, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Red Pepper, Butternut Squash, Pumpkin, Winter Squash

- Mix and match your colors – eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables every week.
- Do you know why it's important to eat more colorful vegetables? The more color a vegetable has – the more vitamins and minerals it has.
- These vegetables get their color from beta carotene, an antioxidant that the body converts to Vitamin A. Vitamin A helps our vision, protects us from infections, and helps keep skin healthy.
- There are so many ways to eat colorful vegetables – zesty tomato sauce, mashed sweet potatoes, fresh carrot sticks, roasted red peppers, baked butternut squash – how many other ways can you think of?

Encourage your student to try red & orange vegetables in the school cafeteria this month!

Survey

If you have a nutrition question and would like to suggest a topic that

might be covered in a future "Nutrition News," please follow this link to a quick survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QKQC83F>

PTO MARKETPLACE

1. **Stop & Shop:** 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 ;)
2. **BoxTops:** Keep clipping those BoxTops and save them for our next contest in the spring!
3. **SCHOOLA:** 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!
4. **Amazon:** Use the link at www.westonpspto.org for all your Amazon purchases. A percentage of the sales using this link will be donated back to the Weston Schools. Must use the link and not the app.

AROUND TOWN

TREES & WREATHS at the ONION BARN

Weston Boy Scout Troop 788 will hold its annual holiday tree and wreath sale at the Onion Barn in Weston on 11/29, 11/30, 12/6, 12/7 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. They will have Fraser & Balsam fir trees ranging from 5' on up to 14', as well as wreaths in 12", 16", 20" & 30" sizes.

All trees are scheduled to be fresh cut here in northern CT on 11/24 and 11/25. These are some of the freshest trees you will find anywhere. Free Delivery and setup in stand for all trees above 8'. Free Delivery on all trees for seniors. Complimentary hand tied bow with all wreaths.

WESTON WOMEN'S LEAGUE

MAIN STREET WESTON: An evening of fabulous shopping at MAIN

STREET WESTON on Friday, November 21st, from 6-10 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 35 Norfield Road. Suggested donation \$20/adult; \$10/child. Sponsored by Know Obstacles. Proceeds benefit the Weston Warm-up Fund.

BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, Nov. 29, the Weston Women's League (WWL) will sponsor its annual blood drive at Norfield Church Parish Hall, 64 Norfield Road, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Donors are encouraged to make an appointment by visiting the Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org or calling the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767). Drop-in donors are welcome, but donations by appointment are given priority service on the day of the drive.

For more information, contact Lisa Cicale Moskal at cicalemokal@optonline.net or 917-385-3018.

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

FOR KIDS:

Our WOW! winter program catalogs are coming soon! Check out some of our exciting new programs including NASA space explorers, bonjour mes Amis, superhero engineering with Legos, model building and digital storytelling, as well as some familiar favorites such as international cuisine, clay, and exploring science.

For budding babysitters, the second session of Sitter Safety begins on January 7th and registration is currently underway.

Please visit our website www.westonyouthservices.org for additional program information or contact Charlene Monn, Program Coordinator, at 203-222-2586 or cmonn@westonct.gov

FOR PARENTS:

November's Focus is *Brains, biology, and behavior*. We'll discuss the latest research on the developing brain and how biology and psychology influence (and sometimes interfere) with behavior.

The mind-body connection.
Thursday November 20th
12-1:30 pm

A light lunch will be provided!

Weston Town Hall Annex Conference Room (next to the Board of Education building)

Our thoughts and feelings impact the health and development of our brains and bodies, and how we use and treat our bodies also impacts our thoughts and feelings. Come learn about the mind-body connection and strategies for strengthening our physical and emotional health and well-being.

Parent workshops are open to all parents and caregivers and there is no fee to attend.

To RSVP to any of the upcoming sessions please visit <https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=85893&org=weston-youthservices.org> or call 203-222-2585.

WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY There are lots of activities at the Weston Public Library in November! All programs are free and open to the public. www.westonpubliclibrary.org

WESTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The after school Weston Parks & Recreation flyers are on the Town website for the winter sessions of the following:

Sports & Fitness grades k - 5, Dancercise and Jump Roping – grs. 1 & 2, Youth Saturday Basketball – grades 1 – 8, Youth Wrestling grs. 2 - 8, Ski Trips, gr. 5 and grades 6 – 8, pool permits and aquatic lessons.

The pool is open for weekend public swim on Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. , Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 6:15 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. and Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

Please follow the registration procedures.

CUB SCOUTS - CAKE AUCTION

The Cub Scouts will be hosting a cake auction on Saturday, December 6th at 4PM at Norfield Parish Hall to raise money for the

Weston Food Pantry. Anyone can bid on or contribute a cake. Professionals: show off your delicious designs! Amateurs: it's a piece of cake—just bake and decorate! Raffle tickets for contributors and for purchase to win amazing cakes. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry. Contact guy3bos@gmail.com for more information.

NORWALK HOSPITAL TOY DRIVE: There is a collection bin at the front entrance. Thank you!

PLEASE DONATE
to benefit

Norwalk Hospital
Pediatrics

To make our children's stay here more uplifting
Please donate *unused and unopened* games and toys for

ALL AGES

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| BABIES | Board Games | TODDLERS |
| Mobiles | Puzzles | PRESCHOOLERS |
| Rattles | Coloring Kits | Trains |
| Pop-up Toys | Art Supplies | Dolls |
| | Craft Kits | Doctor Kits |
| | Play dough | Matchbox Cars |
| | Building Kits | |
| | Etc. | |

No stuffed animals please

THANK YOU

you will be a **BIG** Help! 🙌

Love, Weston girls scouts