



The Hurlbutt Buzz

The Hurlbutt Elementary School Newsletter

December 11, 2014

(No. 15)

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
Dec 15	BOE Meeting	7:30 pm WMS LRC
Dec 18	Holiday Basket Donations Due	Your student's classroom
Dec 24 – Jan 2	No School	Winter Recess
Jan 14	General PTO Meeting	9:15 am coffee; 9:30 meeting begins SH cafeteria
Jan 30	Early Dismissal at 12:35	Professional Development

[Click here for the 2014-2015 Weston District Calendar](#)

TOPICS THIS WEEK

- PTO President's Message
- Community Service Project - Holiday Gift Baskets
- Kindergarten Registration
- HES LRC Overdue Notices Reminder
- December Nutrition News
- PTO Marketplace
- Please Pick Up Innisbrook Orders
- Weston Youth Services
- Weston Public Library December Programs
- Weston Historical Society - Meet Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Elf 12/21
- Weston Parks & Rec Dept Winter Offerings

- Girl Scouts Help with Norwalk Hospital Toy Drive thru 12/15
- Toys for Tots - Collection thru 12/19 at various locations

PTO & SCHOOL NEWS

PTO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have something to tell you. Now, before you get too excited I have to remind you that in keeping with the tradition of this newsletter, you will experience no significant increase in your knowledge base after reading what I have to say. Will you be entertained? Hopefully. Will you be slightly more aware of what is going on than you were before? Probably. Will you be glad you took five minutes of your day to read this newsletter? That might be pushing it. Regardless, though, I'm going to tell you anyway in the hopes that you get something out of it.

Before I tell you what I have to tell you I'm going to tell you why I'm telling you a little about what I am going to tell you more about in a few weeks. But first, a question. Have you ever have one of those times where you have this thing lying around your house taking up space and it just sits there day after day, month after month, year after year? We all have. It could be a leaf blower, a cake decorating kit, the Flowbee home haircutting system, you name it. It sits there gathering dust until you finally decide it's time to get rid of it. And wouldn't you know it but as soon as you do, your friend calls you up and asks to borrow the thing that sat in your home without getting any use for years that you finally got rid of. Bad timing. What I'm hoping to do here is to prevent that from happening to me.

So without further ado, here is the informationish part of the newsletter. The thing I'm about to ask you for hopefully before you get rid of it is gently worn children's clothes. And the thing I don't want you to do is get rid of them right before I ask you for them. So there it is...roughly 300 words into the newsletter and we finally get to the point. Not too shabby if I say so myself. Here's the deal. At some point in early 2015 we are going to be holding a clothing drive to support the Hurlbutt Elementary PTO. We are going to have collection boxes at the front of the school and we are going to collect as many clothes as we can to send into our fundraising partner, Schoola.com. Once there, Schoola will sell the clothes on their website and send us a check for 40% of everything that sells. Pretty cool, right? Of course it is. Minor details such as the dates, times and places have yet to be determined. But if you plan on spending some time this winter recess cleaning out your closets, please consider holding onto those clothes until January. I'd hate to be that guy that asks you for something right after you've gotten rid of it. Speaking of which,

anybody have an extra Flowbee lying around? Mine broke.

As always, have a great rest of your week and weekend.

Yours,
Dan

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS

The PTO is holding our annual Community Service Gift Basket Project. We have partnered with Weston Social Services to provide meals and donations for Weston residents. A letter should have arrived via your students' backpack with information about the project. Your participation in this project is optional, you can participate fully, partially, or not at all. Please send in your donations for the Holiday Gift Baskets by **December 18th**. Thank you so much for your support of this project!

Nancy Kirwan-Hayden and Kerry Keegan, WIS PTO Community Service

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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 in the Main Office at any time during office hours (8:30-4:15). Please contact Laurie Eagle at (203) 557-5983 for more information.

To facilitate a smooth drop-off, 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.

HES LRC, *Sharon Rodko, Librarian*

This month we will begin sending overdue notices home via e-mail. For December, we will also send home a print copy. In January we will go green and only send notices by e-mail. Please call the LRC if you have any questions (203) 557-5929. Just a reminder that if students have an overdue book or have reached the maximum checkouts (K=4, 1st=6, 2nd=8) they will be asked to pick a book to put on hold. They can return the necessary books and pick up the book on hold any school day. Thanks for your help.

NUTRITION NEWS -

“How do you get motivated and make time for exercising and make it a daily habit?”

December 2014

Do you find yourself saying, “I should exercise, but...”

When you make a mindset shift from, “I should exercise...” to “I’m doing this because it’s fun and enjoyable,” you’ll notice that it’s much easier to make time for exercise.

Start with 5 or 10 minutes of exercise a day. It’s much more manageable to think about going for a 10 minute walk or calisthenics exercises for 5 minutes than to do an hour workout at a gym. Getting started is sometimes the most challenging part, so tell yourself that you’re going to do 5 or 10 minutes. If you end up doing more, great! And if you end up doing 5 or 10 minutes, that’s great too. Consistency is the key!

Also, it’s important to build fitness levels gradually. If you haven’t

exercised in a while, the body needs to adapt, so starting out with 5 or 10 minutes per day and then each week, add more increments of time. This will allow the body to adapt and gain strength and cardiovascular endurance.

Make it fun! Double it up with another fun activity! Taking a walk outside gets you out in nature. Taking a walk with a family member or friend allows you to spend quality time together. Sign up for a group fitness class and meet some fitness friends. Another benefit of a group class is that you put it in your calendar it's time specifically set aside for you. Plan fun and active family events on the weekends, like walking the mall, hiking, walking at a beach, going to an indoor or outdoor pool for swimming, practicing favorite sports, trying out a new sport like tennis or tossing a ball in the back yard or at a park.

Jill Patterson, RD
Resident Dietitian

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

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.

PLEASE PICK UP INNISBROOK ORDERS The Innisbrook orders have arrived, and the boxes have been placed in alphabetical order by last name on the stage of the South House Cafeteria. **Please pick them up before December 19th.** You can stop by any time Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:15 pm. Just check in with the Security Staff and they'll direct you to your orders. Please note that the boxes are too big to send home with your students on the bus.

Should you have any questions or concerns about your order, please do not hesitate to contact Eliza Tabacchi (elizatabacchi@yahoo.com) or Carol Clemens (carol.clemens@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your continuous support and cooperation!

AROUND TOWN

WESTON YOUTH SERVICES

For kids:

Registration for our winter WOW! programs is currently underway. 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.

And start your engines, an additional spring session of drivers ed has been added to the All Star Driver schedule.

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:

December's Focus: Media Mindfulness

Tis the season to give and get gadgets; share photos, posts, and tweets from holiday vacations; and spend more time on social media than schoolwork. Come learn about new gizmos, apps, and sites, and how to teach your children to be responsible and respectful media consumers.

Good gadgets, awesome apps, and digital do's and don'ts.

Tuesday December 16th

12-1:30 pm **A light lunch will be provided!**

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

Wondering what digital games and gizmos are good for your kids? Wondering how to keep kids from spending all vacation staring at a screen? Wondering what kind of savory sandwiches and good give-aways WYS will provide this week? Join Michelle Albright, licensed clinical psychologist and Director of Youth Services for a discussion about how to assess apps, gizmos, and games, and manage media use.

To RSVP please

visit <https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=87790&org=westoyouthservices.org> or call 203-222-2585.

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

WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Chanukah Sing-a-Long

Thursday, December 11 at 9:30 AM

Get your dreidls ready and come out for some Chanukah fun with the Schneerson Center staff.

Thursday Morning Book Club – *Empty*

***Mansions* by Bill Dedman & Paul Clark Newell Jr.**

Thursday, December 11 at 10:30 AM

“When Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Bill Dedman noticed in 2009 a grand home for sale, unoccupied for nearly sixty years, he stumbled through a surprising portal into American history. *Empty Mansions* is a rich mystery of wealth and loss, connecting the Gilded Age opulence of the nineteenth century with a twenty-first-century battle over a \$300 million inheritance. At

its heart is a reclusive heiress named Huguette Clark, a woman so secretive that, at the time of her death at age 104, no new photograph of her had been seen in decades. Though she owned palatial homes in California, New York, and Connecticut, why had she lived for twenty years in a simple hospital room, despite being in excellent health? Why were her valuables being sold off? Was she in control of her fortune, or controlled by those managing her money? Dedman has collaborated with Huguette Clark's cousin, Paul Clark Newell, Jr., one of the few relatives to have frequent conversations with her. Dedman and Newell tell a fairy tale in reverse: the bright, talented daughter, born into a family of extreme wealth and privilege, who secrets herself away from the outside world.." - Amazon

SCORE: Reputation Management on Social Media
Thursday, December 11th at 6 PM

You know that what is said about your business online can make the difference between gaining a customer and not getting a chance to serve them. Join Kristina Centnere, owner of eKat Development, to learn how to use this important tool. Come away with the knowledge that with proper reputation management, you can make sure that even negative reviews don't devastate your business.

Minecraft Meet up and Lego Workshop
Sunday, December 14th 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.

Movie Night Feature Film – *The Hundred Foot Journey* (PG)

Wednesday, December 17th at 7 PM

When Hassan's family is forced to move from their native India, his Papa relocates to a peaceful hamlet in Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in the south of France. Determined to give his new neighbors a little taste of home, Papa decides to open an Indian restaurant in the village, and names it Maison Mumbai. Meanwhile, across the street at the traditional French restaurant, uptight proprietor Madame Mallory doesn't exactly welcome the competition. When Madame Mallory ignites a bitter feud that quickly escalates, the only hope for a peaceful resolution lies in Hassan's talent for French haute cuisine. Starring Helen Mirren.

Wednesday Evening Book Club

The Wednesday Evening Book Club is off in December!

Family Film Week

December 29-January 2 at 12 Noon

Stop by the library during the school break week to enjoy some family movies. Families are welcome to bring lunch, and a caregiver must remain with children.

December 29 – How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)

December 30 – Planes Fire and Rescue (PG)

December 31 – Dolphin Tale 2 (PG)

January 2 – Beauty and the Beast (G)

There are lots of activities at the Weston Public Library in December! All programs are free and open to the public. Check out the website at www.westonpubliclibrary.org.

TOYS FOR TOTS ~ WESTON PD

Toys For Tots collection continues at the Weston PD:

The Weston Police Department continues its Toys For Tots drive through December 19th.

New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the main entrance of the Weston Police Department, or at the Town Hall Monday through Friday during regular business hours 9 AM To 5 PM.

After hours donations can be made at the Weston Communications Center main entrance located near the Norfield Fire House on the opposite side of the Town Hall.

We thank all of you who helped make our collection event this past Sunday a huge success.

Chief Troxell

