



January 10, 2019

## Welcoming Schools!

Each of the West Hartford Public Schools are engaged in a multi-year Welcoming Schools process. Webster Hill is currently in year one of our journey. This past fall, a Webster Hill parent received Welcoming Schools training and joined our school committee in reading the book, *Powerful Partnerships*. In the upcoming months, she will be joined by our parent rep. on the Safe Schools Climate Committee and members of the PTO to visit two other schools in town for a walk-through protocol. We will receive visiting teams as well and get feedback from those visits.

All Webster Hill families will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences in two ways. We will be sending a Welcoming Schools survey to all families very soon. We will also be holding focus groups and all families will be invited to attend. We will choose morning, afternoon and evening sessions to hopefully increase opportunities for participation. After compiling information on the visits, survey data, and focus group sessions, we will create steps to include in our annual School Improvement Plan. The schools in town who started the process last year have spoken positively about their journey to make all families feel welcome. I look forward to hearing from you. Your feedback is essential in helping us continue what we do well while reflecting on and improving any areas that require our attention and focus.

## Safety update

I wish it weren't necessary, but safety is always on my mind as a principal and as a parent of children who attend school. I want to use this issue of *The Connection* to give an update and share some of the many measures that are in place to protect your children.

Kidslink worked with our Plant and Facility department to install a buzzer system. This has enabled us to keep all exterior doors locked before, during and after school.

Band, Orchestra, Choir students used to enter through one door, which we left unlocked for a short time in the morning. That is no longer the case. All exterior doors are locked and our children who come before school for rehearsal are let in by a staff member.

Doors remain locked during After School Activities and we ask families to wait outside for the children to be dismissed.

We have a school Emergency Team with a parent rep and we meet throughout the year. Our town's Security Director, Eric Dency and our School Resource Officer, Irene Klein attend whenever possible. We discuss safety procedures and protocols and plan activities to better inform the staff. We work through safety scenarios and give teachers consistent messaging to share with students.

Staff are assigned consistent areas for duties. Not only are they able to build relationships with students but having a consistent location and set of responsibilities lets us know if something seems out of the ordinary.

..cont.

The district is constantly looking to improve safety measures. Eric Dency and Assistant Superintendent Andy Morrow recently presented at a Parent/Teacher Council meeting and Mr. Dency attends many of our Leadership meetings to run safety scenarios with the town's principals.

How can you help? Most of you are great about coming right to the office, signing in and putting on those critical "visitor" stickers. They are important because while you may be well known to some or even most of the staff, you are most definitely not known by all. When a staff member sees an adult in the building who they are unfamiliar with and don't see a sticker, it raises alarm. We have been charged with maintaining a safe environment for your children. We ask that you do your part and sign in and have your visitor sticker worn where it is easy for us to see.

*Jeff*

The following students have earned STRIVE recognition for the month of December

Kelsey W.

Eloise W.

Elijah K.



#### Public Act 16-189

We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff.

In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit [www.whps.org/pa189](http://www.whps.org/pa189).

## Dates To Remember



January 10	EKG Meeting	3:20-4:15pm	Library
January 16	Author Celebration Bristow Choir	9:00-9:30am 10:15-10:45am	Room 8
January 17	Pre-K Open House (new families)	6:00-7:00pm	Room 9
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. / No School		
January 22	Gr. 5 Field Trip	9:10-1:50pm	Noah Webster
January 23	Gr. 5 Field Trip	9:10-1:50pm	Noah Webster
January 31	Math Night/ Pasta Supper	5:30-7:30pm	



## PLEASE POST THIS BY YOUR PHONE AT HOME & WORK

### INCLEMENT WEATHER , SCHOOL CLOSING & DELAYS

The following radio and television stations will carry the necessary information about late openings.

#### TELEVISION STATIONS:

Channel 3, 30, & Channel 5 Cable Access

#### INTERNET:

[www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org)

#### RADIO STATIONS:

WTIC 1080 AM

WKND 1480 AM

WHCN 105.9 FM WKSS 95.7 FM

WRCH 100.5 FM WRYM 840 AM

**The West Hartford School District now has the technology to notify each student's household when there is a cancellation or delay due to inclement weather. The phone notification will be in addition to existing online, television, and radio notifications, and the phone call would be issued no later than 6:30 a.m.**

**REMINDER:** Whenever there is a delayed opening, ALL morning activities such as choir, band, kidslink etc. are cancelled.

**EARLY DISMISSALS:** It is very important that you review early dismissal emergency procedures with your child. It is appreciated if you use one or all of the above sources to keep updated on the latest information regarding school delays and closings.

#### BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

**Supervision on our grounds begins at 8:20 a.m.**

Please be informed of the latest information regarding delayed openings using the sources above. Thank you for your continued support for the safety of your children.

### EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSING

In the event of an emergency early closing, these are the early closing times for **ALL** days of the week.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 11:45 AM**  
**(Please note this is a new time!)**

Middle School 11:00 AM

High School 10:30 AM



#### REMEMBER:

In the event of an emergency early closing, the Kidslink Extended Day Program will be **closed**.

- Give your children 3 to 5 homes to go to in the neighborhood, in a certain order.
- Show them where an extra house key is kept.
- Remind them to go to the designated neighbor, but then be certain to leave a note for you (on the back door or in the mailbox) as to where they are staying.

We suggest that you walk through a simulation with your children to give them the experience in a non-threatening situation.

#### OUTDOOR RECESS POLICY

The recess policy dictates that all students will go outside for recess if the temperature is 20 degrees or above. We will factor in the wind chill. Students should be appropriately dressed to spend time outdoors during recess. Warm clothes, gloves, hats and boots are required during the



## INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

If you have a child that is eligible to enter Kindergarten in the Fall of 2019 (must be turning 5 before 1/1/2020) please call the office at (860) 521-0320 as soon as possible so we can add your child's name to our incoming Kindergarten list.



## From the Nurse: When to keep your child home from school

The CDC reports that we are entering the peak of flu season, which is now widespread in Connecticut. There have also been more reports of gastric/stomach illnesses locally. This is a good time to review the importance of hand washing, covering coughs, and keeping hands out of mouth with your child.

**Stomachache, vomiting, and diarrhea-** A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours and the child is able to return to a normal diet. If your child has vomited during the evening or night please do not send them to school in the morning even if they appear to be feeling well. Allow them time to rest and return to their typical activity level. Since viruses spread easily throughout the school system, children should remain at home for a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or fever to ensure a healthy return to school. Your child should be feeling well in order to maximize the learning experience.

**Cold, sore throat, cough-** If cold and cough symptoms are associated with fever or they do not readily improve, call your doctor. If the cough is persistent consider that your child may not be able to engage fully in classroom activities. Your child may attend school if there is no fever for at least 24 hours.

**Fever-** Fever in the school setting is defined as temperature 100 F or greater. Fevers are generally signs of infection. While Tylenol/Motrin may be effective in reducing fever, your child may still be contagious. Even though the fever is temporarily alleviated, it does not address the underlying cause. Your child should be fever free without medication for at least 24 hours before returning back to school.

**Returning to school too quickly may prolong your child's illness and allow it to spread to others. Remember to wash hands frequently.**

Please remember to **call the school absence line at 860-929-5828** any time if your child is ill. You should call if your child is absent more than one day in a row or if he/she went home ill the previous day. You can leave a message anytime of the day or night.

Mrs. Helene Hanrahan RN

(860) 929-5810

## Makerspace Update!

Our Webster Hill Makerspace is up and running with bi-monthly challenges!

Beginning in October, students explored the space and engaged in opportunities to work with KEVA planks! During December and January, classes are invited to participate in a Lego and/or KEVA challenge. Can you build a bridge strong enough to hold something? Can you build a bridge longer or shorter than a given length? Classes are encouraged to team up with their book buddies to engage in Makerspace activities, too!

During Library, we've started to learn about some of our new robots, Cubetto and Ozobot, and will also use them in the Makerspace!

We are grateful to the Webster Hill PTO and Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools for their support as our space grows to engage our students in hands-on learning.



KEVA Planks



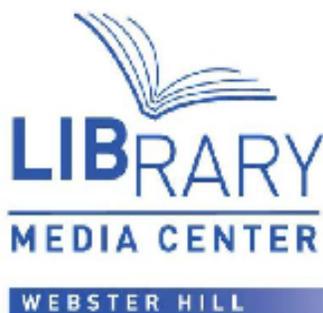
LEGOS



Cubetto



Ozobot



## **INQUIRY in the Library Media Center**

*What would happen if there wasn't electricity?*

*What happens if part of a cycle is broken?*

*How did you decide what to wear this morning?*

All of these are questions elementary students may ask. They are looking for answers that are bigger than “yes” or “no.” Inquiry learning is a process in which *kids* lead the adventure. Students ask questions that engage their interests and challenge them to connect their world to school curriculum.

Students talk and share resources, ask *more* questions, and then even question their answers. At the elementary level, there is, of course, guidance from teachers and inquiry is based in a curricular area such as science, social studies, and/or the arts. There are methods and skills taught discretely while kids are doing fun activities with topics that are engaging and relevant. The Library Media Center is the perfect place for inquiry to start! All of the resources are at students' fingertips with expert advice to help navigate the tools – whether print, digital, or both. Learning *how to learn* in an information rich environment requires students to work hard and persist as they dig deep to find the answers to their questions.

Today's students must be able to do more than give back information they've been taught – they should question it, use it for new understandings, and make it relevant in their world. We're looking for that ah-ha! moment...the feeling of wonder when you've just learned something new and exciting.

Please visit the Library Media Center or contact me for more information!

Most kindly,

Mr. Tavera, Teacher/Library Media Specialist  
joseph\_tavera@whps.org

Visit our website: <http://websterhill.whps.org> – click on “Library”  
Follow the Library on Twitter! [@websterhill\\_lmc](https://twitter.com/websterhill_lmc)





Webster Hill Families,

I am in search of volunteers who are interested in helping with the Art Show this year. Some tasks include:

- √ Help with matting work starting in March. I will make a kit with supplies you can take home to do, and you would return for the week after break (April 15th).
- √ Putting the work on bulletin boards (around the week of April 15th).
- √ Taking the work off bulletin boards (around the week of May 6th).

I am excited to announce that this year each student will have a personal piece, a group project with their class or grade level, AND an artistic butterfly in the art show.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you are interested! My email is [haley\\_nelson@whps.org](mailto:haley_nelson@whps.org)  
Any and all help is appreciated and welcomed!

Thank you,  
Ms. Nelson



**Nervous about middle school?  
Unsure what to expect?  
Do you have questions?  
We can help!**



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**Please join the three principals of the West Hartford Middle Schools at one of the two upcoming information nights. Topic at each meeting will include: MS transition planning, schedules and classes, and parenting teens.**

**This is open to ALL West Hartford parents of current 5th graders and is a parent-only event.**

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**Please join us at one of the following sessions:**

**Monday, February 4, 2019 - Whiting Lane School, 7:00-8:00pm**

**Thursday, February 7, 2019 - Duffy School, 7:00-8:00pm**



## West Hartford Public School Pre-Kindergarten Programs

Apply now for the 2019-2020 Pre-Kindergarten programs located at Charter Oak International Academy, Florence E. Smith STEM School and Webster Hill School. The lottery is open to students that are West Hartford residents. Applications will be available online at [whps.org](http://whps.org) or may be completed at the Town Hall Residency Office, Room 134 beginning January 10, 2019.

### Applicants must be:

- A resident of West Hartford
- Age eligible:
  - Charter Oak International Academy will accept 50 Pre-K students born between 1/2/2015 to 1/1/2017.
  - Smith and Webster Hill Schools will accept 16 Pre-K students each born between 1/2/2015 and 1/1/2016.

Please plan on attending one of the following  
Open House Informational meetings:

Charter Oak International Academy:	February 7th 6:30 pm February 21 <sup>st</sup> (snow date)
Florence E. Smith STEM School:	January 24th 6:30 pm January 29 <sup>th</sup> (snow date)
Webster Hill School	January 17th 6:00 pm

For additional information, please call:

Charter Oak International Academy (860) 233-8506  
 Florence E. Smith STEM School (860) 236-3315  
 Webster Hill School (860) 521-0320

Irene Garneau, Dept. Supervisor for Early Childhood Education (860) 929-5552





## **Programas de Pre-Kindergarten de Escuelas Públicas de West Hartford**

Solicitudes para los programas de Pre-Kindergarten de las escuelas de Charter Oak, Smith y Webster Hill del año escolar 2019-2020. La lotería está abierta a estudiantes que solo residen en West Hartford. Las aplicaciones de lotería están disponibles electrónicamente en [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org) y en el Town Hall en la oficina de Residencia, habitación 134, comenzando 10 de Enero 2019. Pueden llenar la aplicación en la oficina de Residencia.

### **Solicitantes deben ser:**

- Residentes West Hartford
- Requisitos de edad establecidos:
  - La escuela de Charter Oak International Academy aceptará estudiantes de Pre-K nacidos entre el 2 de Enero del 2015, y el 1 de Enero del 2017.
  - Las escuelas de Smith y Webster Hill aceptarán estudiantes de Pre-K nacidos entre el 2 de Enero del 2015, y el 1 de Enero del 2016.

**Por favor planeee asistir a una de las siguientes Noches Informativas:  
Sesiones de Información:**

<b>Charter Oak International Academy:</b>	<b>7 de Febrero, 6:30 pm 21 de Febrero (fecha de respaldo)</b>
<b>Escuela de Florence E. Smith STEM:</b>	<b>24 de Enero, 6:30 pm 29 de Enero (fecha de respaldo)</b>
<b>Escuela de Webster Hill School:</b>	<b>17 de Enero, 6:00 pm</b>

**Para información adicional, por favor llame a:**

**Charter Oak International Academy (860) 233-8506  
Smith School (860) 236-3315  
Webster Hill School (860) 521-0320**

**Irene Garneau, Dept. Supervisor for Early Childhood Education (860) 929-5552**



# Off To Kindergarten!



Please join us to learn more about Kindergarten in West Hartford, the Registration Process, and ways to help prepare your child.

Parents of the West Hartford Kindergarten Class of 2019-20

To register, please e-mail [rsvpgreatby8@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpgreatby8@gmail.com)

Childcare available by reservation on first-come, first-served basis.

Children residing in West Hartford who are 5 on or before January 1, 2020 are eligible for enrollment in WHPS kindergartens.

Monday  
January 28, 2019  
(Snow Date:  
Monday, February 4, 2019)

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Town Hall  
50 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107



Webster Hill PTO



websterhillpto.org

News, dates and updates • January 10th

**Math Night & Pasta Dinner:** Our annual Math Night and Pasta Dinner will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm. **\*\*We are in need of volunteers to help with this event\*\*** Please email us at webhillpto1@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering!

**Webster Hill Elementary PTO Private Facebook Group:** Having trouble staying connected with all that is going on at the school? The PTO has created a private and closed Facebook Group so parents can stay in touch with the latest events. Due to privacy concerns, if you request to join you will be asked to prove you are a parent of a current student by answering several questions. Also, each post by members will need to be approved by the moderators. If you are interested in joining, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/websterhillelementarypto/>



**Box Tops for Education:** Our monthly challenge is in full swing. We want to encourage every family to collect 10 box tops per month. We hope the collection sheets make this goal easier for families. Keep on clipping!



**Amazon Smile:** Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Webster Hill PTO when you do your holiday shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/30-0122164>. Please follow this link to get set up if you haven't already!



**Shopping at Stop and Shop?** Help out our school as you shop! It is EASY with Stop and Shop A+ Rewards. All you need is a Stop and Shop card. You then register your card using the following link: <http://stopandshop.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>. Let us know if you need help by emailing: [webhillpto1@gmail.com](mailto:webhillpto1@gmail.com)



**Parent / Teacher Basketball Game:** In the gymnasium at Conard High School on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun event for the entire family! More information to come. Save the date!



**Hartford Yard Goats Game:** Our annual Yard Goats outing will be Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The kids always have a blast taking pictures with Chompers and running the bases after the game! This is one of the PTOs largest fund raisers. Save the Date! The Flyer/Order form can be found here [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y9rDfLq8F2ixmoNJDhQngLdD46KvIWC/view?usp=drive\\_sdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y9rDfLq8F2ixmoNJDhQngLdD46KvIWC/view?usp=drive_sdk)

**Don't miss our next PTO Meeting Monday, January 14th at 6:30pm in the Library!** Come share thoughts and ideas, ask questions, and learn about our exciting upcoming events/activities. **\*\*We will have babysitters\*\***

## 2018-2019 PTO Board

*President*  
Samantha Paul

*Vice President*  
Aimee Wood

*Treasurer*  
Anita Arakelian

*Recording Secretary*  
Jake & Lizzy Brooks

*Communications Coordinator*  
Liz Wilmes

*Fundraising Coordinator*  
Matt Wilmes

*Room Parent Coordinator*  
Courtney Jackson

*Rewards Program Coordinator*  
Rachel Kovolski

*Event Coordinator*  
Jon Beach

*Donations Coordinator*  
Eric Gagne

*Community Relations Coordinators*  
Eric Gagne & Nate Przysiecki

*Yearbook Chairperson*  
Kristen Cramer

*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Patricia Przysiecki

*Spiritwear Chairperson*  
Anna Kocsandy

*4<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison*  
Christine Valastagui

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison*  
Laura Keever

*Teacher Representative*  
Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Chapdelaine



## Memorable baseball experiences for all age divisions!

TRAINING \$50!	INSTRUCTIONAL \$75!	MINORS	MAJORS
<i>Players ages 4-6</i>	<i>Players ages 7-8</i>	<i>Players ages 9-10</i>	<i>Players ages 10-12</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddy requests</li> <li>• Tees/coach pitch</li> <li>• Introduction to baseball</li> <li>• End-of-year jamboree</li> <li>• Two days a week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddy requests</li> <li>• Machine pitch</li> <li>• Skill and team building</li> <li>• All teams make playoffs</li> <li>• Summer travel options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School-based teams</li> <li>• Kid pitch</li> <li>• All teams make playoffs</li> <li>• Play under the lights!</li> <li>• Summer travel options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger 50/70 field layout</li> <li>• Learn MLB-style rules</li> <li>• All-Team playoffs/All Stars</li> <li>• Play under the lights!</li> <li>• Summer travel options</li> </ul>

*Recreational and competitive Travel teams*

*Off season options at our own indoor baseball facility!*

*Fair and balanced teams throughout the league*

*Open to residents of West Hartford, towns bordering West Hartford, East Granby and Windsor*

**Turning 13 after April 30th ? Play WHYBL!**

West Hartford Youth Baseball League:

EMAIL: whybl@hotmail.com

WEB: whybaseball.com

PROVIDING THE BEST BASEBALL EXPERIENCES FOR 70 YEARS!





**WEST HARTFORD SEPTO PRESENTS**

**SILENT SPRING FLING**  
AN ALL INCLUSIVE DANCE PARTY | STUDENTS TO AGE 21

- Typical & non-typical students welcome.
- Bluetooth headsets allow individual volume control.
- Enjoy light refreshments.
- Parent lounge for adults to mingle
- No babysitting
- One-on-one assistance will not be provided.

**05.11.19**  
SATURDAY | 7PM-9:30PM  
ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

**TICKETS \$10**  
[BIT.LY/SILENTTICKETS](http://bit.ly/SilentTickets)



**INFO@WHSEPTO.ORG**

The West Hartford Special Education PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) invites you to join us for the 2019 Silent Spring Fling on Saturday, May 11th from 7 to 9:30pm at Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Avenue in West Hartford. The Silent Spring Fling is a silent dance party experience designed specifically for individuals with sensory sensitivities.

The DJ will spin a live set of dance favorites through wireless Bluetooth headphones allowing attendees to control their own volume levels.

Students (typical and non-typical) from West Hartford and neighboring up to 21 years of age are invited to attend. Tickets are \$10 each for students. Tickets are on sale now online at <http://bit.ly/SilentTickets>

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend for free (\$10 for headphones) and a parent lounge is provided for families to relax and connect with other members of their community during the event. No babysitting or one-on-one assistance will be provided. Parents Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information contact us at [info@whsepto.org](mailto:info@whsepto.org).

West Hartford SEPTO is a 501©3 town-wide special education PTO founded in June 2002 to provide support, education and friendship to parents navigating their way through the school system with a child receiving special education services.