



May weather has arrived! Sunshine always has a way of making our days even more enjoyable. The month of May also brings us *Teacher Appreciation Week* from May 7-11th, a time when we express gratitude for the skilled, consistent, and loving efforts of our faculty at Wolcott School. Their dedication to your children and expertise as educators influence our school community in profound ways. We thank our PTO who has planned a breakfast in their honor next week. In addition, *National Nurses Day* is May 9th. Mrs. Roberts continues to provide appropriate and loving care to our Wolcott friends, and we thank her for her efforts, enthusiasm, and strong communication with families.

Our annual Spring Concert is next Tuesday! We thank Mr. Luongo and Mr. Rhone for their dedication to students and music education. Students and staff will enjoy a performance on the morning of May 8th, and the evening performance begins at 7:00. All performers will arrive by 6:30 for necessary preparations. A few weeks ago, we sent home information containing appropriate attire for the evening concert. In addition, there are no more morning rehearsals for the remainder of the school year. We will send a phone call reminder to all families (robocall) this Sunday evening with this same information as a reminder.

At this time of year, we offer congratulations and a welcome. After many years of service to the West Hartford Public Schools, our lead secretary, Nancy Michalski, is retiring. We thank Mrs. Michalski for her dedication, efforts, and love of Wolcott School and its people, and we wish her well on her future journeys! Barbara Scully will be our next lead secretary, and she will assume her new position in late June. An employee of the West Hartford Public Schools since 2006, Mrs. Scully began as a paraprofessional colleague at Wolcott supporting kindergarten students. In 2013, she transitioned to a clerk position at the Charter Oak International Academy where she has acquired significant experience in office skills and management. The interview committee unanimously was impressed with her interpersonal skills and detail in answers provided during the interview. Her strong ability to prioritize and problem solve was evidenced in the performance task that she successfully completed. Additionally, the committee recognized and appreciated her demonstrated leadership skills, which will serve her effectively as the future leader of the Wolcott Office Team. She and her husband reside in West Hartford, and they have four grown children. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Scully and all that she will bring to the vibrant and supportive community that is Wolcott School!

Have you noticed the new *Eagle's Nest Clothing Closet*, now open in the school lobby near the fish tank? A group of volunteers from the Caring School Committee has created a clothing closet that we are calling the Eagle's Nest, named after our school mascot, Buffy. All members of our school community are encouraged to peruse the beautiful clothes (some slightly worn and some

new with the tags still on!) and take what they wish. At this time, we have many items of clothing for school-aged children and toddlers. Some other elementary schools in West Hartford have introduced this concept with success. If you have any questions, please contact our parent, Jenine St. Clair, at jeninestc@gmail.com

As we enter the final weeks of school, please continue to visit our school website and check backpacks to obtain important information relative to end-of-the-year events, such as field trips. So many wonderful events to celebrate and enjoy! We continue to value the sincere partnership that we share with you in supporting your children.

Sincerely,

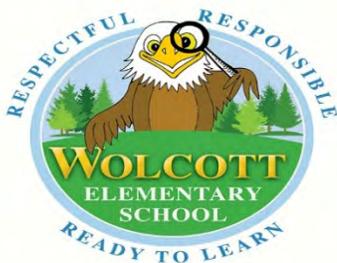
Scott



May 2018

Dates to Remember

- 5/4 Whole School Town Meeting 2:30p.m.
- 5/4 Yard Goats Game PTO 7:00p.m.
- 5/8 Spring Concert, 9:30-10:15
- 5/10 Grade 3 Field Trip to Westmoor Park, 8:45-1:30
- 5/14 Grade 5 Field Trip to the Freedom Trail, 8:45-6:00
- 5/15 K-Grade 4 Field Day
- 5/16 Grade 2 Field Trip to Westmoor Park, 9:30-11:30
- 5/18 Inter-El School Performance, 9:15-10:15
- 5/20 Run-A-Muck
- 5/24 Grade 3 Explorations Day: 9:45-12:00
- 5/24 Inter-El Concert at the Bushnell, 7:30-9:00
- 5/25 Grade 4 Field Trip to Hammonasset, 9:00-1:00
- 5/29 Grade 5 Field Day
- 5/29 Art Show, 5:00-7:00
- 5/30 Spelling Bee



Cultural Council

West Hartford Cultural Council brings a variety of cultural assemblies to our elementary schools each year. Just this March, we enjoyed a wonderful, high energy performance by Step Afrika! Please consider returning the donation envelope that recently came home to support such programs in our school. No donation is too small. Thank you for your help and commitment to the arts in our school!

Annual Wolcott Spelling Bee



Our school's annual Spelling Bee will take place on Wednesday, May 30th. Classes will do spelling bees during the month of May and send two talented finalists to the grade level bee on this day. Below are each grade's bee times. Good luck, spellers!

8:40-9:25 Gr. 4

9:30-10:15 Gr. 5

10:20-11:00 Gr. 1

11:05-11:45 Gr. K

11:55-12:40 Gr. 2

1:00-1:45 Gr. 3

Not Returning to Wolcott?

If you know that your child will NOT be returning to Wolcott in the Fall, please contact the main office so that we can accurately plan for class sizes and the mailing of school records. Thank you.

West Hartford Special Education PTO

April & May 2018 Events

Friday, May 4 @ 9:30am

Coffee & Conversation

Come join some members of SEPTO for a casual get together to meet other people in town. Sit down, grab a cup of coffee or a bite to eat and mingle with other parents, caregivers or family members of children receiving special education services in West Hartford.

LOCATION: Panera, Bishops Corner

Saturday, May 19 @ 7-9:30pm

"Silent" Spring Fling Dance

Join us at The Underground on Saturday, May 19th from 7 to 9:30 for an all-inclusive dance party experience designed specifically for individuals with sensory sensitivities. The DJ will spin dance favorites through wireless Bluetooth headphones allowing attendees to control their own volume levels.

All students (typical and non-typical) 10 years of age and older are invited to attend. Tickets are \$5 each for students. Tickets available online now at <http://bit.ly/silentspringfling>
Parents are strongly encouraged to attend for free and a parent lounge is provided for families to relax and connect with other members of their community during the event.

WEST HARTFORD SEPTO PRESENTS



SILENT SPRING FLING

AN ALL INCLUSIVE DANCE PARTY | AGES 10+

- Typical & non-typical students welcome.
- Bluetooth headsets allow individual volume control.
- Enjoy light refreshments.
- Parent lounge for adults to mingle, a few volunteers will be on hand to chaperone but one on one assistance will not be provided.

INFO@WHSEPTO.ORG

05.19.18

7PM-9:30PM | SATURDAY
THE UNDERGROUND - BEHIND BIG Y

TICKETS \$5

BIT.LY/SILENTSPRINGFLING



Spring Box Tops Collection



Wolcott + Box Tops = \$\$\$

Let the Spring Box Tops Collection begin!

Whose class will win this time?

Please send in the Box Tops in a plastic bag or envelope clearly marked with your teacher's name. Submissions are due no later than Friday, May 11th. Our goal is to collect at least 6,000 box tops, which equals \$600.00 for our school.

If you have any questions about General Mills Box Tops for Education program, please visit www.boxtops4education.com or contact Natalie Ford nwcford@yahoo.com or (860) 798-7788. Thank you!

SPRING ALERT

Does your child know what this sign means?



Spring is here, and our kids are outdoors playing on lawns. While this is a healthy activity for children, parents need to be aware that many lawns are treated with potentially harmful chemical pesticides. **Please make your children aware of the meaning of the yellow pesticide application warning flags** and tell them to stay off lawns where they are displayed.

The unique behavior of children as well as their developing physiology make them more vulnerable to these chemicals than adults, and studies have shown that even small exposures to pesticides at critical periods of development may cause acute or long term health problems, including asthma, neurological and endocrine problems and certain cancers.

Many commonly used lawn pesticides can remain on the grass long after the warning signs have been removed. Pesticides can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or inadvertently ingested when children put unwashed hands in their mouths. They can also be tracked indoors on shoes, where they do not break down quickly, and can remain an exposure risk for months.

"As a pediatrician I urge all parents to reduce pesticide use as much as possible, especially lawn services. Children's health is more important than a few weeds."

Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.
Director, Children's Environmental Health Center
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



To limit your family's exposure, stop using lawn pesticides and keep children away from treated areas in parks, playgrounds or on neighbor's lawns. Even commonly used consumer "weed and feed" products contain harmful pesticides. If a neighbor is spraying their yard, close your windows and bring moveable items inside, especially children's toys and animal food dishes.

Today, homeowners have many more safe lawn care solutions available to them as natural lawn care is the fastest growing segment of the green industry.

*For more information on lawn pesticides
please visit our website*

www.grassrootsinfo.org

MANDELL JCC | 10th ANNUAL
parenting series

Series Sponsored by



INTERNET SAFETY **ARE YOU A WEBWISE PARENT?**

What Every Parent Needs to Know to Protect their Children Online

Tuesday, May 15 | 7:00pm

Law enforcement officer Scott Driscoll, who has spent the last decade investigating and working to protect cyber-crimes, will discuss concerns and solutions to assist parents in understanding:

- Social networking
- Popular & trending apps
- Privacy settings
- Programs & strategies that will help protect your children online

Adults only. Free and open to the community

Preregistration requested by May 4:

Colby Wyckoff, 860-231-6376, cwyckoff@mandelljcc.org

Information: Jane Pasternak, 860-231-6342, jpasternak@mandelljcc.org

"The mission of Internet Safety Concepts is to help families learn about being safe while using the Internet and other technology. The Internet can be a fun and educational place, but if not used properly or with safety in mind, it can lead to some very serious and dangerous situations. We are committed to teaching everyone how to make smart choices while using the Internet and today's technology."

- Scott Driscoll, Law Enforcement Officer,
Educator and Parent



Zachs Campus | 335 Bloomfield Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06117
860-236-4571 | www.mandelljcc.org

MANDELL JCC PARTNER





FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WEST HARTFORD YMCA

SAY HELLO TO SUMMER ADVENTURES!

at St. Thomas Seminary—467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield
Financial assistance available!

2018 SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP

Ages: Grades K- 10th
Date: June 25th-August 24th
Time: 7am-6pm, AM & PM care is included in fees
Fees: \$240/week or \$175/3 days



BE EXTRAORDINARY ALL SUMMER LONG!

at Wolcott Elementary School—71 Wolcott Road, West Hartford
Financial assistance available!

2018 SUMMER LEARNING CAMP

Ages: Age 4-Grade 8 (entering grades 1-4 will take part in BELL Power Scholars Academy first 5 weeks)
Date: June 25th-August 24th
Time: 7am-6pm, AM & PM care is included in fees
Fees: \$240/week or \$175/3 days

2018 BELL Power Scholars Academy

Ages: Entering Grades 1-4th
Date: June 25th-July 27th
Time: 7am-6pm, AM & PM care is included in fees
Fees: \$240/week

Hop the gap over summer learning loss with literacy, math, art, recreational activities and STEM enrichment with certified teachers every day! Field trips every Friday!



WEST HARTFORD YMCA 12 N Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107
860.521.5830 | westhartfordYMCA.org | Like us on Facebook @West Hartford YMCA

Welcome to the



Parent Teacher Organization

Visit us online: www.wolcottpto.org

May 2018

Our last PTO meeting for the 2017-2018 school year will be Thursday, May 10th at 7 PM in the school library. Free childcare will be provided for school-age children.



Past meeting minutes are available at <http://wolcottpto.org/> under "Meeting Minutes/Newsletters".

Volunteers Needed for R.A.M. Forest Clean Up Day

Join us **Saturday, May 5** to get the Wolcott Forest ready for Run-A-Muck. We will be picking up garbage, trimming back the trails, raking leaves, and more. This is a great opportunity for our kids to give back to their school community. Adults are definitely needed as well so plan to stay with your child. Please remember to wear long pants and gloves, and if you can bring rakes and/or shovels too.



Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4da4ae2da3f49-ram1>

Run-A-Muck Race Registration is Open!!

The fifth annual Kids' Run-A-Muck Race is fast approaching! Join us on **Sunday, May 20**, beginning at 9:15 am (ages 4-5) for the Little Rascals Race, and continuing with 15-minute slots for ages 6-12 through 1:00 pm. Costs are \$15 for the Little Rascals, and \$25 for ages 6-12. Each registration includes one t-shirt. Proceeds from our race benefit fitness programs at Wolcott Elementary School. Registration ends on May 11.



Registration link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4da4ae2da3f49-wolcott>

For more information please contact the Event Coordinator, Aileen Bastos at aileen.bastos@gmail.com.

PTO Year-End Parent Survey

In the coming weeks, the PTO will be conducting a brief, anonymous parent survey to get some feedback on how our Organization can grow and evolve to better serve the Wolcott community in the future. Please take 5 minutes to click on the link and share your thoughts with us. We truly appreciate your input. Thank you!

Events Calendar

May 2018

- 4 Yard Goats Night 7:05 PM
- 5 Forest Spring Cleanup
- 10 PTO Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 Grades K-4 Field Day
- 20 Run-A-Muck 9:15 AM
- 29 Grade 5 Field Day

June 2018

- 6 Spring Fair



It's time for Spring Box Tops Contest!

Whose class will win this time?

Our goal is to collect 6,000 Box Tops which could earn our school \$600.00. Please remember to send in the Box Tops you collect to school, in a plastic bag or envelope labeled with your teacher's name. **Submissions are due no later than Friday, May 11th.**



Join the Wolcott Facebook Community. Just follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/65668936887/> and submit

a request to be added to the private group. It's a great way to keep up with Wolcott events & happenings.

Welcome
to the



Parent
Teacher
Organization

Visit us online: www.wolcottpto.org

May 2018

Wolcott PTO Volunteer Spotlight
Congratulations to Our Volunteer of the Month:
KIMBERLY JEWELL!



How many years have you been a Wolcott parent and what grade(s)/age(s) is/are your child(ren)?

I have been a Wolcott parent for five years now. Both my son and daughter have attended the school. My daughter is currently in second grade at Wolcott, while my son has moved to a school for children with autism.

What is your favorite Wolcott PTO event during the year?

The Wolcott PTO puts on so many great events that it's tough to say which my favorite is. I am a really big fan of the Haunted Forest, Talent Show, and Run-A-Muck though!

What PTO/school events, committees or activities are you currently working on or have helped with in the past? What types of things do you do for these jobs/events?

I will be leading the Tea Cup Auction committee for my third year next fall. I have been lucky to work with amazing committee members for the past two years, including Lindsay Harrison, Kristen Rogers, Megan Belmonte, and Jill Oliver. We have so much fun working with the room parents to assemble great baskets.

What motivates you to volunteer?

I volunteer for the PTO because my schedule does not typically permit me to attend PTO meetings. Volunteering is my way of staying involved with the school/PTO.

Briefly describe your life outside of Wolcott. How do you fit in volunteering with your otherwise busy schedule?

I live with my husband, son, and daughter. My husband works for ESPN and I work for Keller Williams Realty. With life's daily demands, it's not always easy to find time to volunteer. I have found that picking one event to focus on is the best way for me to commit to the PTO. I know that I will be busier during the time the Tea Cup Auction is running but I also can plan ahead for the extra activity in my life.

Do you know an amazing PTO volunteer who deserves to be recognized? Please email Aileen Bastos at aileen.bastos@gmail.com with your nominations!