



March 11, 2019

Dear Wolcott Families:

We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the winter months, but looking forward to sunshine and blooming flowers ahead!

A child's experience in school becomes more impactful due to the partnership that exists between home and school. Thank you for your involvement in our recent Parent/Teacher Conferences, a wonderful opportunity for us to share areas of student success and continued growth. We share the goal of supporting your children towards success, and we appreciate the crucial role that you play in that success. Thank you.

Last month was another busy one at Wolcott, including the school assembly that welcomed the group Arabiqa, sponsored by the West Hartford Cultural Council. Additionally, we had a blast at the annual (and always anticipated) Family Game Night. We thank our teachers who assisted in calling out bingo numbers and our PTO for their continued hard work and energy.

As the cold disappears and flowers begin to emerge, we begin to plan for the next school year. One of the most important pieces to plan for is classroom placement. In April, we will begin the purposeful process of grouping students into classes for the 2019-2020 school year. This process is a collaborative one that encompasses two months of planning. Classroom teachers, support staff, and the principal are active participants in this process.

You may wish to write an informational letter about your child, and we value your input. Please adhere to the following questions if you choose to submit a letter: Describe your child as a learner. What are his/her strengths? What are areas for growth? Describe your child as an individual. What are his/her personality traits? In what type of environment does he/she learn most effectively? Please inform us of any special circumstances involving your child and his/her peers. We are fortunate to have a dedicated, skilled, and caring teaching staff at Wolcott School. To that end, please refrain from requesting a specific teacher. The number of sections and teacher assignments are subject to change, and we strive to be fair and equitable with all families. Please drop off your letter to the main office (or mail the letter) no later than Friday, April 5th. Please do not email letters. After April 5th, we cannot accept them because the process will begin. We value the classroom placement process, remaining cognizant of the right fit for all students.

The next several weeks will bring some anticipated events, including Kindergarten Information Night (this Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:15), our PTO meeting (March 21st at 7:00 in the library with childcare available for school-aged children), and the Wolcott Talent Show (March 22nd from 6:30-8:00 in our auditorium). Our Family Math Night will be on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:00-7:00 in our auditorium and library. Looking further ahead, our spring vacation will be on April 8-12th. The school will be closed, including our main office.

In this newsletter, you will find several articles containing important information, including special event dates and times, excerpts from our *Elementary Parent Handbook*, friendly reminders, and information about our current character choice of perseverance and the Buffy's Best initiative to identify and celebrate individual students demonstrating the Wolcott Way. In addition, you will find information about our upcoming Family Math Night and how our teachers are collaborating during the school day.

Thank you for your continued contributions to Wolcott School and its people, and for the partnership that we share in supporting your children.

Sincerely,

-*Scott*

Join us at Wolcott Elementary School for Family Math Night!



What? Play, learn and enjoy hands-on activities with everyday materials and educational games. You don't need to be a math expert; come enjoy an hour of math games that are fun for the whole family!

Who? Family Math Night is designed for adults and students in kindergarten through grade 5.

When? Wednesday, March 27, 2019 6:00-7:00 PM

Where? In the cafeteria and library

We hope to see you there!



March 14th (Thursday)
Kindergarten Information Night
6:00-7:15
Auditorium

March 15th (Friday)
Whole School Town Meeting:
Perseverance Kick-off
2:30-3:00
Auditorium

March 19th (Tuesday)
Board of Education Meeting
7:00
Town Hall (Room 314)

March 21st (Thursday)
PTO Meeting – [care for school-aged children provided](#)
7:00-8:00
Library

March 27th (Wednesday)
Family Math Night
6:00-7:00
Math is Everywhere at Wolcott

March 29th (Friday)
Town Meeting Grades 3-5: Perseverance
2:30-3:00
Auditorium

April 5th (Friday)
Town Meeting K-Grade 2: Perseverance
2:30-3:00
Auditorium

April 8-12
NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess

Grade 5 to 6 Mathematics Placement Process...

During the upcoming months, the secondary mathematics department supervisors at our middle schools will collaborate with elementary staff to develop math course placement recommendations for incoming sixth graders. West Hartford Public Schools strongly believe that nurturing, challenging environments support successful mathematicians. Teachers will provide input regarding current student progress on Grade 5 mathematics including student performance on standardized measures, perseverance, and use of higher order thinking skills. Placement recommendations will be determined later this spring, and a letter will be sent to parents/ guardians by mail in early June with additional information from the middle school math department supervisors.



We thank parents and guardians who were able to join us for conferences recently. We appreciate our partnership with you as we work together to support your children at Wolcott School!



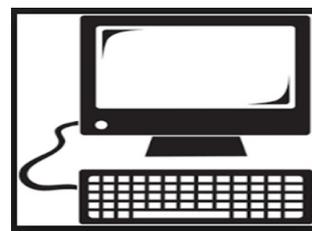
Chewing gum at school is not allowed due to the risk of choking. Thank you for supporting a safe school environment for our students.

We ask that students who bring cell phones to school keep them in their backpacks. Cell phones may be used once students leave school grounds. If students need to contact family members during the school day, the main office staff can assist them.



Calling All Children Eligible for Kindergarten in the Fall.

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before Jan. 1, 2019, please call the school office at 860-561-2300 or email Heidi at, heidi_eddy@whps.org so that we may add your child to our incoming Kindergarten list.



PowerSchool Parent Portal

Setting up your Parent Portal account is easy! Instructions for setting up the portal account may be found at www.whps.org/parentportal. By setting it up, you will be able to update your contact information, emergency contacts, and other forms electronically, which will provide more timely and accurate information to Wolcott. Thank you!

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.

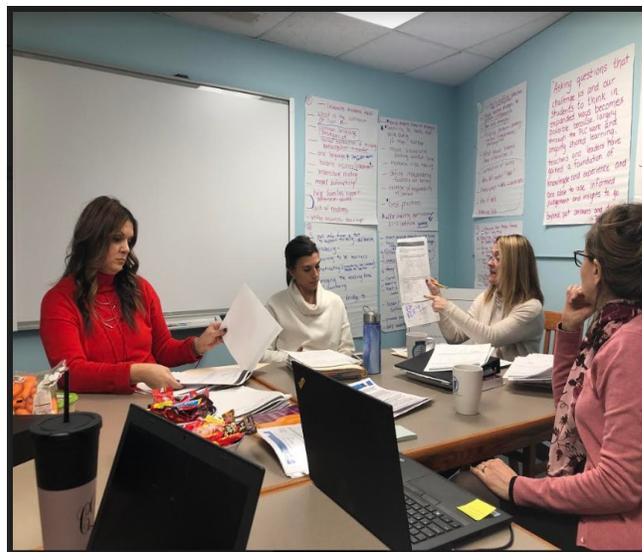
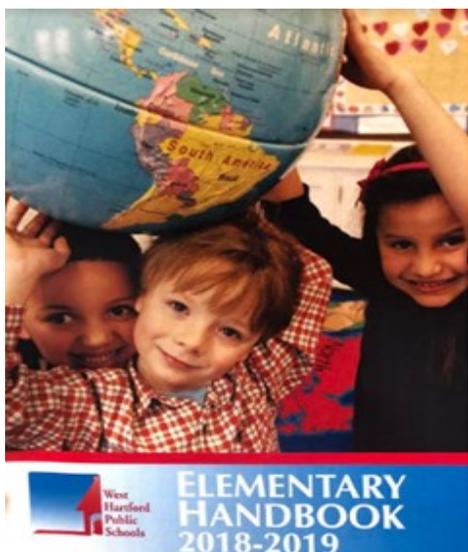
In compliance with Connecticut State Law , we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract 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."

FROM OUR ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

From page 19:

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY ON GRADE ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

Student grade placement shall be determined at the school level by the appropriate administrator. The decision shall be based on the student's general achievement, and the mental, physical, emotional, and social maturity of the child. Students will normally progress annual from grade to grade. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the certified staff, such exceptions are in the best education interest of the student.



TEACHER COLLABORATION AT WOLCOTT SCHOOL

At Wolcott School, our teachers continue to collaborate to share student work, review student data from multiple assessments, and then plan for future instruction. This year they meet regularly to share such expertise in **Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)**. Simply put, these meetings bring teachers together with the intended purpose that their teaching practice and student learning will be influenced through collaborative discussions on a specific topic. Other members who join this team are the curriculum specialist, reading specialist, instructional math coach, and principal.

WOLCOTT STUDENTS HONORED AT STATE CEREMONY

Three Wolcott Schools were honored in February at the annual Elementary Schools Celebration of the Arts Festival sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS). **Jahnya Bailey, Morgan Hall, and Chyanne Walker** were recognized for excelling in the areas of visual or performing arts and exhibiting high levels of citizenship and cooperative skills. Wolcott teachers Dan Luongo (instrumental music), Katie Kennan (visual arts), and Jeff Rhone (vocal music) nominated these deserving students and also attended the ceremony. We are proud of their accomplishments!



Read-a-thon after event write up

On Friday, March 1, the annual Read-a-thon was held at Wolcott. Students were engaged in literacy activities throughout the school day including hosting guest readers such as Mayor Cantor, the town engineer, and several Board of Education members. Students were also able to dress up as a favorite book character. This annual event is a fundraiser to pay for an author or illustrator visit in the subsequent school year. We raised \$1,745 and are still counting a few more donations! It isn't too late to send in your donation. This year, author and scientist Sara Levine will visit grades K-2 on May 3rd. An author/illustrator will visit grades 3-5 in the 2019-20 school year. We thank everyone for their support of this initiative that encourages reading and provides a personal connection and understanding of how authors and illustrators work their magic! Through these wonderful opportunities, many students are motivated and inspired creatively as the visits make authorship and artistry more attainable and accessible.

Promoting Positive School Choices at Wolcott School

We continue to utilize the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework at Wolcott School in which we teach, model, practice, reteach, and celebrate the expected behaviors of being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. This program is a critical component in creating a safe, healthy, and inclusive school environment.



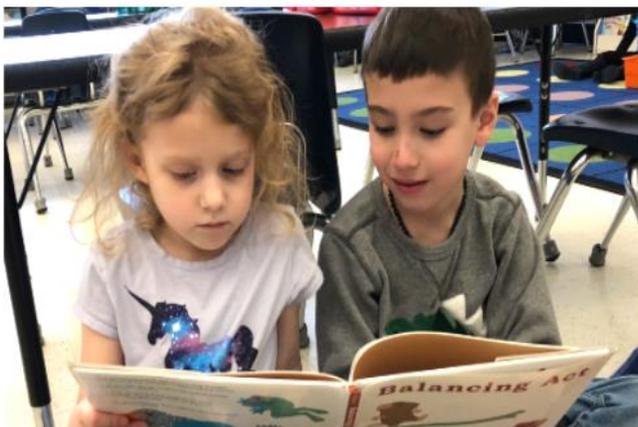
Currently we are learning the power and impact of the character choice of **perseverance**. We are reading the book, *The Most Magnificent Thing*, with an accompanying lesson taught in class. In this story, a young girl becomes frustrated and angry when trying to make "the most magnificent thing." The story offers good options for dealing with such feelings, while assuring that it is okay to make mistakes and keep persevering!

Our *Buffy's Best* program continues to highlight and celebrate students being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. **Over 131 Buffy's Best awards have been given out!** When you visit our school, please check out Buffy's Wall next to the main office. Thank you for your continued support of this program that celebrates students!





We thank our thoughtful PTO for the grants they awarded to our teachers. Our Wolcott students are benefitting from your generosity!





West Hartford Public Schools
Nutrition Services

Happening In The Café

March 6th

Baked Potato Bar



March 15th

Shamrock Nuggets

Tender chicken with a whole grain breading



March 28th

Yang's
5th Taste[®]



Join us!

5th to 6th Grade Transition Night



Parents and students are invited to join us at Sedgwick Middle School on the date assigned to your child's current school.

6:30-7:30 pm - Auditorium

Monday, March 18th
Braeburn, Charter Oak and Webster Hill

Monday, March 25th
Duffy, Wolcott and eligible Smith students

Snow Date: April 1st



Johnny's Jog 5K for Charity

March 24, 2019

10:30 am

Blue Back Square  West Hartford

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in "Style"!

Run, Walk, Push Strollers or just Be Festive!

Bagpipers send you off and welcome you home!

Prizes for Best Irish Garb!

Face Painting/Irish Music/Irish Dancing and much more!

Silent Auction and After-Party at Rockledge Grille

Proceeds Benefit 3 Children's Organizations

Covenant Preparatory School of Hartford

(www.covenantprep.org)

Molly Ann Tango Memorial Foundation

(www.mollytango.org)

The Miracle League of Connecticut

(www.miracleleaguect.org)

Registration, Donation & Corporate Sponsorship

www.johnnysjog.com

www.facebook.com/johnnysjogforcharity



ROCK YOUR SOCKS

ON
MARCH 21
 FOR
**WORLD
 DOWN SYNDROME DAY**



Please join us on March 21 as we strive to create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome in our community and around the world.



The date for World Down Syndrome Day, being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which leads to Down syndrome.

On March 21, wear bold, brightly colored, mismatched socks.

You will probably get asked, "What's with the socks?" That question will give you the perfect opportunity to explain that 3/21 is World Down Syndrome Day, and that you are celebrating all the wonderful things about people with Down syndrome while helping to advocate for individual rights, inclusion, and respect.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW YOU ROCK YOUR SOCKS.

Websites with more information:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cA3t1HW1Ow	More Alike than Different
https://youtu.be/5M--xOyGUX4	Just Like You
https://youtu.be/YOwDfnoek6E	Don't Limit Me, by Megan Bomgaars
https://youtu.be/dXmaE0041Y0	Matty B True Colors
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b7y9UYt_fm	Matty B Just the Way You Are
https://mysact.org	Down Syndrome Assoc. of CT

WEST HARTFORD SPECIAL
EDUCATION PTO

BOOK TALK



West Hartford
Special Education PTO

The Everyday Parenting Toolkit by Alan E. Kazdin

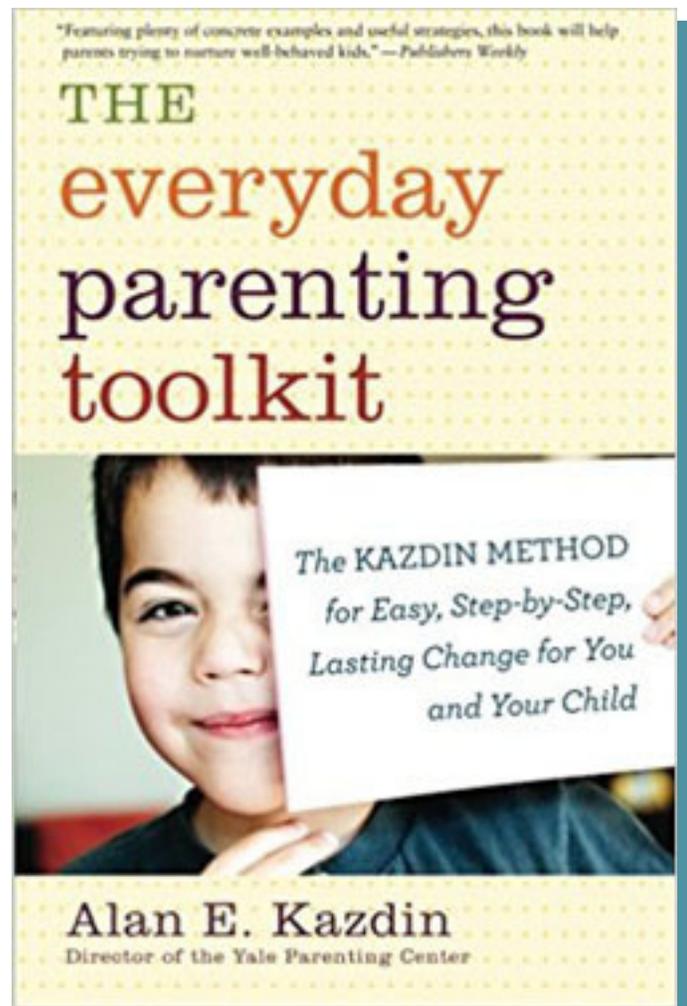
Tuesday, March 19 | 7pm

Noah Webster Library Meeting Room | Blue Back Square

**Matthew Carbone, MEd, MA, BCBA District-Wide Board
Certified Behavior Analyst with West Hartford Public Schools
will lead the discussion.**

Renowned Yale University psychology professor and child psychiatrist Alan E. Kazdin, director of the Yale Parenting Center, offers practical strategies to help parents manage everyday behavioral problems, from toilet training to teaching a child to accept “no” without a tantrum all the way up to struggles over cellphones and curfew.

The core of the book focuses on the “ABC’s”: antecedents, behavior, and consequences. According to Kazdin, the rigorously tested strategies in this book will not only help change your child’s behavior, they will also decrease the stress in family relations, increase your joy in parenting, and help build a more nurturing home life that can directly improve children’s mental and physical health and school success.



**The book is free with this year’s \$15 membership to WHSEPTO
or pick up a copy at the library.**

Vacation Science Camp

the  children's museum

Join us for action-packed days of scientific investigations, Museum exploration, amazing planetarium shows, and up-close encounters with live animals.

- April 8** **Furry Friends**—Have a blast learning about mammals for the day. Campers will have a chance to interact with many of our mammals including our chinchilla, guinea pigs, rabbits and ferrets.

- April 9** **Inventor's Workshop**—Join us for a day full of hands-on inventing activities including creating your own balancing paper robot.

- April 10** **Reptiles and Amphibians**—Spend the day learning about snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs and salamanders. Get a chance to hold one of our scaly reptile residents!

- April 11** **Animals from Around the World**—Spend the day meeting animals from different continents and habitats, including our tropical boa constrictor and our desert dwelling bearded dragon and blue tongue skink.

- April 12** **Lasers!** - Campers will have a chance to watch a laser show, and then go behind the scenes of our planetarium to create their own laser show.

- April 19**
(Good Friday) **Busy Builders**—Up for a challenge? Campers will spend the day using their imagination and engineering skills to build various structures, including mazes for our sanctuary animals!

WHO: Children grades 1-6 (must be at least 6 yrs old)

WHEN: 9:00am to 4:00pm, drop-off at 8:45am

WHAT TO BRING: Simple peanut free snack, ready-to-eat lunch in paper bag (please no insulated bags), shopping money (optional)

COST: Full Day \$60/day members, \$70/day non-members

TO REGISTER:

Return form below with full payment (**and health form**):
The Children's Museum Attn: Registration Department
950 Trout Brook Drive, West Hartford, CT 06119

Camp Health Requirements

- Record of physical examination from within the last **3 years**, with **immunization history**, **MUST** be submitted to us **BEFORE** the child attends the program.
- Documents must be signed by a doctor and feature an exam date from within the last **3 years**.
- A **Medication Authorization** Form is necessary for any child requiring medication administered while at camp.
- If your child requires an **Epi Pen** there is an additional form that must be filled out and have a physician's signature. While at camp, the Epi Pen (or other medication) must be in its original packaging with **prescription label attached**.

Call or go online to sign up, too! 860.726.4008 or www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org

Vacation Science Registration Form

Program fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Please circle days: 4/8 4/9 4/10 4/11 4/12 4/19

Child's Name _____ DOB _____ School _____ Grade _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Names of all Legal Guardians _____

Emergency Phone #1 _____ Contact Name _____

Emergency Phone #2 _____ Contact Name _____

Authorized for Pickup _____

Member Member # _____ Non-Member Amount enclosed _____ Cash Check Check# _____

VISA MC Exp. Date _____ CCV# _____



Funtastic Summer Camp has been Re-Imagined!

The Funtastic Summer Camp program has been a staple in West Hartford Parks for close to three decades! Join our enthusiastic and dedicated staff for daily activities, swimming, field trips and special events. The newly re-imagined program is focused on adding flexibility for parents in today's busy world. We appreciate your business and hope these changes will afford you the opportunity to "stay on task". Camps are offered at three sites, Beachland Park, Fernridge Park and Eisenhower Park weekly 8:30-4:30pm for eight weeks June 24-August 16. NOTE: There will be no camp on July 4th.

New For 2019:

- All sessions are one week long to provide optimal flexibility for families.
- Flexible drop off any time after 8am. Organized activities begin at 8:30am. Allowing working families more flexibility to get where they need to go.
- Curbside Drop off/Sign in. Our staff will meet you in the parking lot to accept your camper. End of day release will still require sign out so staff can have "face time".
- Sundaes on Fridays. Weekly "make your own" ice cream sundae bar.

What is staying the same:

- Same dedicated staff. Our coordinators have almost 50 years' experience in West Hartford Summer Camps.
- Daily Red Cross Swim Lesson.
- Weekly field trip.
- Extended day option available.
- Daily schedule includes, active games, passive and quiet games, crafts, open swim and more...

For all specific pricing, dates and options please visit our webpage at [www.westhartfordct.gov/leisure services](http://www.westhartfordct.gov/leisure%20services)

Hall High School
Presents...

Pops 'n Jazz

March 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2019
7:30 pm



LATE *with* NITE
PNJ

HALL HIGH SCHOOL
975 NORTH MAIN ST., WEST HARTFORD, CT
PHONE: 860-929-5151

Tickets Available
February 4
at
Hallhighjazz.com
Adults: \$18
Students: \$15

Box Office Hours
starting
February 20
M-F
11:00 am-2:30 pm



Baseball for all skill levels
Free winter indoor clinics
Boys and girls ages 4-12

REGISTER NOW
at
www.whybaseball.com



WHYBL All Stars Experience Dreams Park in Cooperstown, NY



Memorable baseball experiences for all age divisions!

TRAINING \$50!

- Players ages 4-6*
- Buddy requests
 - Tees/coach pitch
 - Introduction to baseball
 - End-of-year jamboree
 - Two days a week

INSTRUCTIONAL \$75!

- Players ages 7-8*
- Buddy requests
 - Machine pitch
 - Skill and team building
 - All teams make playoffs
 - Summer travel options

MINORS

- Players ages 9-10*
- School-based teams
 - Kid pitch
 - All teams make playoffs
 - Play under the lights!
 - Summer travel options

MAJORS

- Players ages 10-12*
- Larger 50/70 field layout
 - Learn MLB-style rules
 - All-Team playoffs/All Stars
 - Play under the lights!
 - Summer travel options

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](https://bit.ly/silenttickets)



INFO@WHSEPTO.ORG



Join us for WH SEPTO's Celebrity Scoop Night!

Wednesday, April 24th
5pm-8:00pm
at Rita's of West Hartford
1134 New Britain Ave
West Hartford, CT 06110



A Portion of Sales
Benefit
West Hartford Special
Education PTO!

SAVE THE DATE!

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO
REGARDING ATTENDING "CELEBS!"

West Hartford Special Education PTO (WHSEPTO) is a district wide Parent Teacher Organization that focuses on special education issues for all the children in our town from Pre-K – High School, at all of our schools. Our mission is threefold – to educate, advocate and network. Become a Member at WHSEPTO.ORG

WELCOME TO

SUMMER WHEE

The program would operate from Smith School for 6 weeks. We would swim at Kennedy Park and enjoy 3 field trips along with special theme days, sports and arts and crafts.

The summer program would require a minimum of 15 children enrolled per day in order for us to pay rent and our wonderful caring staff.

We open at 7:30a.m. and close at 6:00p.m. and we have lowered the cost to an amazing \$190.00 per week.

E-mail any questions to wheeco425@gmail.com

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS
APRIL 5, 2019**

() Week 1: 6/17-6/21 Bowling

Mini-Golf/Laser Tag

**() Week 2: 6/24-6/28 Pizza
Party**

**() Week 3: 7/1,2,3 Happy 4TH of
July**

() Week 4: 7/8-7/12 Movies

**() Week 5: 7/15-7/19 Ice Cream
Week**

**() Week 6: 7/22-7/26 Quassy
Amusement Park**

Sign up for one, two, three or more weeks.

Children who have completed kindergarten are eligible to attend.

Child's Name: _____

Date Of Birth: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone: _____

EMail: _____

School: _____

How to avoid a shut off from gas or electricity

Cómo evitar que desconecten el gas o la electricidad

What to do and when to do it - Qué hacer y cuándo hacerlo



Energy Informational Session - Sesión informativa sobre Energía

Come and learn about programs like the CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), the Matching Payment Program (MPP), the Winter Protection Program, the NewStart program at Eversource, Operation Fuel and the functions of Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)

Venga y aprenda sobre programas como CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), Matching Payment Program (MPP), Winter Protection Program, el programa NewStart de Eversource, Operation Fuel y las funciones de la Autoridad Reguladora de los Servicios Públicos (PURA)

Wednesday March 27, 2019 (miércoles marzo 27) 4:30 - 6:00 PM
Faxon Library 1073 New Britain Avenue, WH

Thursday April 4, 2019 (jueves abril 4, 2019) 5:00 – 6:00
West Hartford Town Hall Room 407

Wednesday April 17, 2019 (miércoles abril 17) 6:00-7:00 PM
HANOC 105 Hillcrest Avenue, WH CT

Presented by Social Services Division of the Town of West Hartford
Presentado por la División de Servicios Sociales del Municipio de West Hartford



General Admission

Tickets

\$10

Children under 5

Free



**Conard
Safe Grad
2019**

The Extraordinary Magic of Matt Roberts!



Conard High School Auditorium
Sunday March 24, 2019 (Snow day 3/31)
3:00 - 4:30pm

Come be amazed and entertained at this fun and fantastic performance. Matt's unique blend of Clean Comedy Magic, Mentalism & Astonishing Illusions is fun for all ages. Don't miss this special, one-day-only performance for the whole family!

Purchase tickets at: conardsafegrad2019.ticketleap.com/magicshow2019/

Learn more about his shows at www.Laughsandillusions.com