

GREAT NECK NEWSLETTER

January 19, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

January 25 February 4 February 7 Dine to Donate at Filomena's4pmFamily Ice Skating5:30pm

Get a glimpse of what's going on inside the school by clicking here

January is here and with it comes winter weather! To stay up to date on school closings, delays or early dismissals due to inclement weather, please be sure that we have current phone and email information for you. School closings, delays and dismissals are announced via telephone call or email using School Messenger or can be found on the district

website.



Dear Parents/Guardians:

If there is an educational topic that you would like more information about, please let us know! We're happy to include more information about educational topics in our newsletters.

Literacy in Waterford's Early Learning Program

Spoken language is a child's first exposure to early literacy experiences. Through engaging conversations, exposure to a print rich environment, and high quality educational experiences we can help to develop our youngest learners into readers and writers. What does that look like in Preschool and how can you help to support learning at home?

At School...

- Children are provided direct exposure daily to instruction using programs including "Fundations" and "Heggerty". Fundations teaches us letter names, letter sounds, and how to properly form letters. Heggerty helps build phonemic awareness skills through a variety of games targeting: rhyme, blending and segmenting multisyllabic words, segmenting the beginning and ending sounds in words, and understanding sentence structure (sentences are made up of words).
- Children have exposure to books daily, as both a center during Choice Time and by engaging in a daily read aloud.
- Children engage in Play-Based Learning where literacy skills (making a shopping list, writing a menu, making a list of friends' names, writing their names on their artwork, recording observations, making a greeting card) are embedded through real world Play Scenarios.
- Children engage in fine-motor activities daily in order to build the muscles needed for using writing instruments.

At Home...

- Engage your child in meaningful conversation every day. Utilize emails sent from your child's classroom teacher to guide discussion around the events of the school day.
- Play with your child! Engage them in imaginative play, this will help to expand their vocabulary and promote language! Plus it's fun for all!
- Make reading part of your daily routine with your child. Provide moments for your child to see you read, children are very observant and will notice you reading for pleasure or information, whether it's a favorite book, cookbook, magazine, or newspaper.
- Notice the world around you and point out familiar letters to your child in the environment. Notice the letters on store signs, or in displays.

WPS Preschool Services Information Posted on 01/03/2024



The Waterford Public Schools' Preschool Program is accepting Lottery Entrance Forms for General Education students for the 2024-2025 school year.

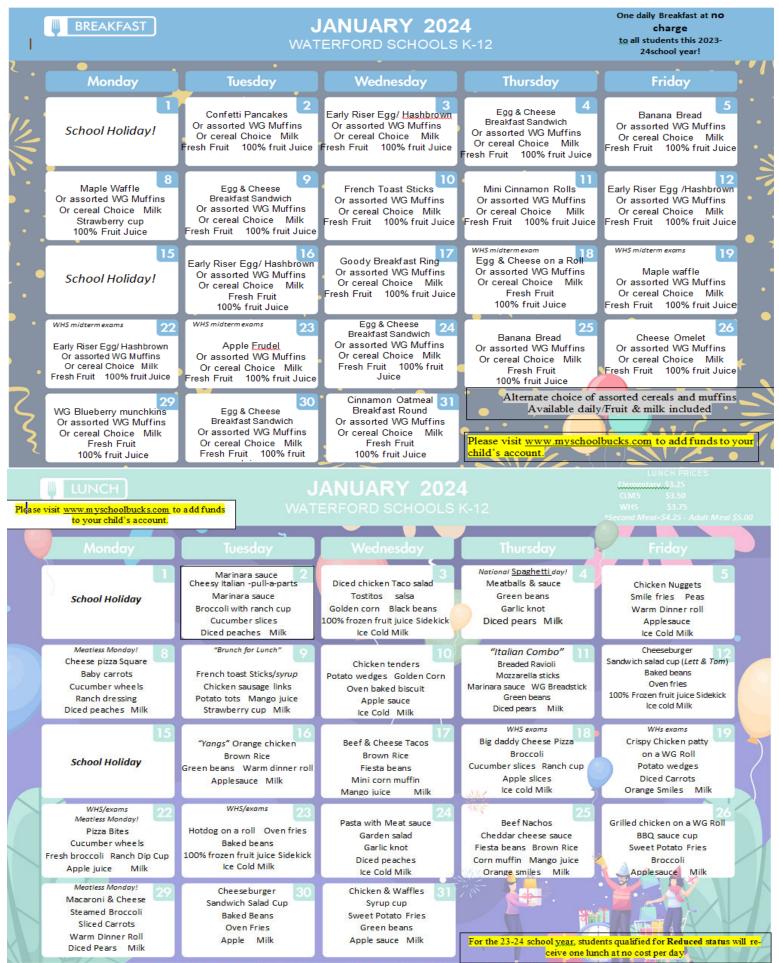
The Waterford Public Schools' Preschool Program is open to a limited number of General Education Students who will serve as Peer Role Models. Peer role models are selected through a third party lottery system. If

families are interested in being placed in the lottery, a Lottery Entrance Form is required. Parents/guardians of General Education students are asked to fill out the Lottery Entrance Form by Friday, February 9, 2024. Only families with completed Lottery Entrance Forms will be included in the lottery. Families of General Education students will be notified by March 1, 2024 if they have a slot next year in the Waterford Public Schools' Preschool Program.



Please note that students must be three or four years old on or before September 1, 2024 to be eligible for the Preschool Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Students who are five years old on or before September 1, 2024 will be eligible for kindergarten at one of our three elementary schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

Preschool information can be found at https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents_family/information/District_Preschool_Services.



All grain-based items offered are whole-grain rich which means that at least 51% of the grains in the item are whole grain (WG), all other grains are enjoyhed A VARIETYOF FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES OFFERED DALLY "Thoroughly cooking meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs reduces the risk of foodborne illness" Alternate Choice Yogurt Meal AVAILABLE Daily or Alternate Salad meal offered when available (See kitchen manager) Yogurt Meal = Yogurt, Mozzarella string cheese, baby carrots, craisins, gold fish crackers, dinner roll, milk Salad Meal=Garden salad with egg, cheese stick garlic knot, fruit choice, milk Allergy Warning: Menu items may contain or come in contact with wheat, eggs, soy, nuts, and milk THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

*Menus are subject to change

DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT AT

FILOMENA'S

AND HELP SUPPORT GREAT NECK PTA

Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm 262 Boston Post Rd, Waterford

Dine-in or take-out at Filomena's Restaurant on Thursday, January 25, 2024 and a portion of the proceeds will go to the PTA to help provide extra resources for the students of Great Neck Elementary School. Invite your family & friends!

Just mention the fundraiser when you order!

For Reservations Or For Take Out Orders, Call 860.437.1010.



Visit www.Facebook.com/GreatNeckPTA for event information.

Waterford Public Schools

2023-2024

| August 2023 | September 2023 | October 2023 | | | | | | |
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| (2 day ~ 2 cumulative) | (19 days ~ 21 cumulative) | (21 days ~ 42 cumulative) | | | | | | |
| 8/28 – ± Staff Convocation | 9/4 – School Holiday (Schools Closed) | 10/9 – School Holiday (Schools Closed | | | | | | |
| 8/29 – * PD - No School – PK-12 8/30 – First Day of School | 9/25 – School Holiday (Schools Closed) | | | | | | | |
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| November 2023 | December 2023 | January 2024 | | | | | | |
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| (17 days ~ 59 cumulative) | (16 days ~ 75 cumulative) | (21 days ~ 96 cumulative) | | | | | | |
| 11/7 – * PD No School for Students- | 12/22 - Early Dismissal PK-12 | 1/1 – School Holiday (Schools Closed) | | | | | | |
| PK-12 11/10 – School Holiday (Schools | 12/25 – 12/29 – School Holiday (Schools Closed) | 1/15 – School Holiday (Schools Closed 1/18-1/23 – ** Midterm Exams: Early | | | | | | |
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| 11/22 – 11/24 – School Holiday | | | | | | | | |
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| February 2024 | March 2024 | April 2024 | | | | | | |
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| (19 days ~ 115 cumulative) | (20 days ~ 135 cumulative) | (16 days ~ 151 cumulative) | | | | | | |
| 2/19-2/20 – School Holiday (Schools) | ** 3/7 – P/T Conferences: | 4/8 - 4/12 - School Holiday (Schools | | | | | | |
| | Early Dismissal PK-12 | | | | | | | |
| Closed) | 3/29 - School Holiday (Schools Closed) | Closed) 4/30 - * PD No School for Students - | | | | | | |
| | 3/29 - School Holiday (Schools Closed) | | | | | | | |
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* Professional Development is for Administrators, Teachers, Paraprofessionals 8 AM-3 PM

** Full day for Paraprofessionals

2023-24 Elementary Letter Rotation Schedule

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No School * Early Dismissal Updated 12/20/2023



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Drop-off times at Great Neck Elementary School for <u>all students</u> in grades PK-5 are between <u>8:25 and 8:35 a.m.</u> Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes early and please DO NOT drop your students off and leave them outside the door without adult supervision. Great Neck Staff come out for arrival to great and assist students at 8:25 a.m. **Please remain in your vehicle with your child/children** until Great Neck Staff come outside to begin the arrival process. Student safety is important and we want to ensure all students are always supervised.

Dismissal time for Walkers is 3:05 p.m. Students do not come outside to be unified with their parent/guardian/family member until 3:05 p.m. Please do not arrive too early. Recently we have noticed multiple cars arriving before 2:30 p.m. This results in traffic back-ups on Goshen Road. Please do your best to arrive at dismissal time, which is 3:05 p.m. If you need to arrive early, please park in the overflow lot until it is time to pull into the lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lastly, <u>**DO NOT under any circumstances**</u> pull into the bus lane during arrival and/or dismissal times. There should not be any vehicles other than school transportation vehicles in the bus lane between 8:15 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. AND between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

We appreciate everyone's willingness to work together to make our arrival and dismissal processes as safe and smooth as possible. For those of you that have other adults picking up your children, please share this important information with them. Thank you.



Youth Winter Reading Challenge

Our Youth Winter Reading Challenge will run from January 8 to February 26. Pick up the sheet for your age group from the Children's Room or print from our website then complete all the fun activities with your family and friends. Turn completed sheets in to the Children's Room for a prize and to be entered into the grand prize raffle. Happy Winter Reading! For ages birth to 18.

Saturday, January 13, 2:00PM - 3:00PM AND Saturday, January 27, 10:00AM - 11:00AM Read to Scout

We are excited to welcome a new certified therapy dog to the library! Come practice your reading skills and give Scout a cuddle in the Children's Room. All ages are welcome, no registration required.

Tuesday, January 16, 4:30PM - 5:30PM Read to Hodges

Stop by the Children's Room anytime between 4:30 and 5:30 pm to read to one of our favorite furry friend, Officer Hodges! No registration required, all ages welcome.

Saturday, January 13, 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Bilingual Family Storytime

Join us for a special storytime with Ms. Emy! During this interactive and fun filled session, we will sing songs and read books in both English and Spanish. This program is aimed towards birth to five years old, but all families are welcome to attend, no registration required.

Tuesday, January 23, 5:30PM - 6:30PM Bilingual Pajama Storytime

Join us for a cozy bilingual pajama storytime! Ms Emy will read books and sing songs

in English and Spanish. Feel free to dress comfy and bring your favorite stuffed animal and a blanket. No registration required, this program is aimed towards ages birth to five but all families are welcome to join.

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for providing funding for these programs.

Saturday, January 27, 2:00PM - 4:00PM

Six Pointed Snowflakes

Join Ms. Janice to make some lovely six pointed snowflakes using just wrapping paper and scissors. Ages 5 and up are welcome, no registration required.

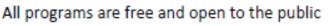
Monday, January 29, 4:30PM - 5:30PM Junior Detectives Book Club

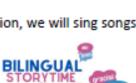
Calling all aspiring detectives! Bring your favorite mystery book to life with fellow Investigators - you choose the book! We will also make a fun craft. Recommended for ages 6 to 8 years old, registration is required.

Mondays, January 8, 22 & 29, 10:30AM - 11:00AM Family Storytime

Get ready to read and get your wiggles out! Join Ms. Jenna at the library for some fun stories, songs, and dancing. Recommended for ages birth to five years old with a caregiver. No registration is required.











DROP IN CRAFTS

Monday, January 8, 4:00PM - 6:30PM Drop In STEM Adventure: STEM Station Join us in the Children's Room between 4:00 and 6:30 pm to explore various STEM kits, that were donated by the local Girl Scouts. Recommended for ages 5 and up, no registration required.

Tuesday, January 9, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Drop In Creation Station



Stop by the Children's Room anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 pm for a fun craft and to get your

creativity flowing! Recommended for ages 5 and up. No registration required.

Monday, January 22, 4:00PM - 6:30PM Drop in Craft: Cardinal Join us in the Children's Room anytime between 4:00 and 6:30 pm to create a Winter Cardinal Handprint Craft. Recommended for ages 5 and up, no registration required.



Tuesday January 30, 4:00PM - 6:00PM Build Club



Stop by the Children's Room anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 pm to build with a variety of STEM sets that we

have! Recommended for ages 4 and older, no registration required.

Thursday, January 25, 4:30PM - 5:30PM DIY Instruments: Thumb Piano Join us to make your very own thumb piano to take home! All supplies provided, for ages 5 and up, registration required.

GRAB & GO CRAFTS





Mittens Jan 2 to Jan 19

Hot Chocolate Character Jan 20 to Feb 2

Pick up supplies in the Children's Room to make Grab & Go crafts at home, while supplies last. Step-by-step video tutorial on our Facebook page (@waterfordpubliclibrary).

TEEN CORNER

Thursday, January 4, 5:30PM - 7:00PM Craft Night

At this craft night participants will be learning how to knit an ear-warmer using only their fingers! For ages 11 and up, registration required.



Thursday, January 18, 5:30PM - 7:00PM Teen Drop In Craft Stop into the Teen Area of the library between 5:30 and 7:00 pm to make a fun craft! Ages 12 and up, no registration required.

Monday, January 22, 12:00PM - 2:00PM Mindful Midterms

High school students - stop by the library meeting room between noon and 2:00 pm to hang and destress with your friends. We will have snacks, music, crafts, and a variety of games so you can relax and take a break from studying. No registration required.

Friday, January 5, 11:00AM - 12:00PM Toddler Craft: Igloo



Join us for a fun-filled crafting session

where the little ones will use their creativity, and fine motor skills to make an Igloo. Mrs. Sharma will start the session with a short story! For ages 3 to 5 years old, no registration is required.

Friday, January 12, 11:00AM - 11:45AM Story and Sensory Play

Join Miss Ashlee for a story and then explore multiple sensory stations! Recommended for ages 2 to 5 years old with a caregiver. No registration required.

Wednesday, January 17 11:00AM - 11:45AM Toddler Art



This hands on art session is for young ones to explore through process art with the help of their adult. Miss Ashlee will start the session with a short story! For ages 3 to 5 years old, registration is required.

> To keep up with all our activities follow us on Facebook and Instagram





@waterfordpubliclibrary

@waterfordlibraryct

Either call the library to register or go to our Calendar of Events page on our website. www.waterfordpubliclibrary.org 860-444-5805, Adult Ext 2, Youth Services Ext. 3

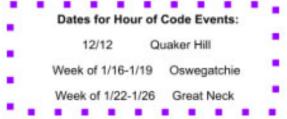
2023-24 Hour of Code

Students in grades PreK-5 in Waterford will again be participating in the 2023-24 Hour of Code Event to celebrate Computer Science. Hour of Code is a global movement introducing tens of millions of students worldwide to computer science, inspiring kids to learn more, breaking stereotypes, and leaving



them feeling empowered. We know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works.

More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code. Our schools are making a statement that Waterford is ready to teach these foundational 21st-century skills. Students will participate in a one-hour introduction to computer science during the school day, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. Coding requires discipline, attention to detail, perseverance, the ability to predict an outcome and problem solving skills. These are skills we want all of our students in Waterford to fully develop.



A website to supplement our event has also been created and will be a resource for age appropriate coding activities during the months of December and January. Students will have access to the site here at school and at home. Students can use the devices they have at home to access the links and videos. We encourage families to join in and code right along with your child/children. The website will be live starting Dec. 1st. You will be able to access it from:

Mrs. McCue's District Webpage (Elementary Technology Specialist)

*locate Hour of Code 2023-24 at the top

If you are interested in reading more about the Hour of Code event and the benefits of coding, visit http://hourofcode.com/us .



Waterford Little League

Register online now for Spring Little League Season!

We are currently updating our website so to register for the upcoming season please scan the QR code

or go to



https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/waterfordct

2024 Spring Season Registration fees:

Majors/Minors - \$150 Coach Pitch - \$100 Co-ed Tee Ball - \$85

> Payment Plans available! Family discount for families with 3 or more players.

Important Registration Dates:

Majors/Minors \$25 late registration fee begins 1/1 **Registration closes 1/15**

Coach Pitch \$25 late registration fee begins 2/1 **Registration closes 2/15**



Please email Registration@wllct.org with any registration questions.





SAAC MIDDLE SCHOOL

🏀 Elevate Your Child's Basketball Skills with ISAAC Middle School! 🏀

ISAAC Middle School is excited to extend an invitation to students in New London and surrounding towns for our top-notch developmental basketball instruction tailored for grades 2-5. Our experienced coaching staff is dedicated to fostering a positive and supportive environment, ensuring your child receives quality training that goes beyond the court.

🍀 What to Expect:

- SKILL DEVELOPMENT: From dribbling and shooting to teamwork and strategy, we focus
 on honing fundamental skills.
- POSITIVE COACHING: Our coaches prioritize encouragement and motivation to build confidence both on and off the court.
- FUN AND INCLUSIVE ATMOSPHERE: ISAAC Middle School emphasizes the joy of the game and welcomes players of all skill levels.

📰 Program Dates:

Five Saturdays: January 20th, January 27th, February 3rd, February 10th, February 17th

Location:

ISAAC Middle School Gymnasium (190 Governor Winthrop Blvd., New London, CT 06320)

Session Times: Grades 2 and 3: 10:15 am – 11:15 am Grades 4 and 5: 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

🌐 Open to 20 players at each age group. Slots are limited and will go fast – contact us now! 🌐

Join us as we inspire young athletes to reach their full potential and instill a lifelong love for the game. Don't miss this opportunity to empower your child through basketball excellence at ISAAC Middle School!

For more information and registration details, contact us 860-447-1003 or by email jalvarez@isaacschool.org. Closing date for registration is January 18, 2024





JOIN WATERFORD POLICE AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION!

No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions and voice concerns. Get to know your local first responders.

Come see K-9 Chase, K-9 Ginger, K-9 Hodges & K-9 Traveler!





Waterford Soccer Club

Spring Registration opens - January 1, 2024

Travel League \$100 Born 2010 - 2015 (2009 8th graders) **Rec League \$80** Born 2016 - 2018 **Tykes \$60** Born 2019 - 2020 **No Assessments for Spring** Travel open: 1/1/24 - 3/15/24 \$30 Late fees start: 3/1/24 Travel closes: 3/15/24 Rec open: 1/1/24 - 4/1/24 \$30 Late fees start: 3/15/24 Rec closes: 4/1/24 Tykes open: 1/1/24 (Never closes)

WWW.WATERFORDSOCCER.ORG

REGIS

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ER ONLINE AT:

QUESTIONS EMAIL: WTFDSOCCERREGISTRAR@YAHOO.COM

SPRING 2024

WATERFORD YOUTH LACROSSE

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

www.waterfordyouthlacrosse.org

Grades K-8

Instructional (K-2): \$30 Equipment available to borrow for the season. No USA Lacrosse Membership or Uniform required.

Travel Teams: \$185 *Includes Uniform* 10U Grades 3-4 12U Grades 5-6 14U Grades 7-8

NEW Custom & Personalized Unforms for all Travel Players *All travel players must have a valid USA Lacrosse Membership* www.usalacrosse.com

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 2/1

Grab your stick and let's dominate the field in the 2024 season!





Recruit a friend...score a WYLA gift!



Follow us @waterfordyouthlacrosse





UCFS Healthcare

UCFS Healthcare's School-Based Health Centers and Your School!

The UCFS school-based health centers (SBHC) are a doctor's office inside of your school. The services are provided by an APRN (advanced practice registered nurse)/PA (Physician Assistant) and licensed behavioral health clinician who are experts in adolescent health and are employed by UCFS. The intention of the UCFS SBHC is to supplement the care your child receives at their pediatrician's office.



Services Provided

- · Yearly well-child examinations
- Vaccinations
- Sports physicals
- Acute care visits (e.g. sick visits, lacerations, injuries, etc.)
- Chronic care visits (e.g. asthma, ADHD, etc.)
- Mental Health Assessments
- Substance Abuse Screenings
- Counseling (individual, group, and family)

Top 5 Reasons to use the School-Based Health Center

- · Convenient same day appointment.
- Removes barriers to care such as lack of transportation.
- · Decreases time away from the classroom which improves
- academic success.
- Improves student's achievement by taking care of behavioral health needs that can make learning difficult.
- Connects students and their families with insurance coverage.



Referrals are easy ...

Behavioral Health Referrals can come from students, teachers, counselors, administrators as well as parents/guardians of students. Medical visits can be coordinated through the school nurse or directly with our family engagement/medical assistant. Working collaboratively with school personnel, families, and local youth services has helped to maximize student support.

To learn More...

School-Based Health Centers are located at Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School and are open to all Waterford Public School students.

Scan here to learn about the School-Based Health Center at your school! SBHC line - 860-822-2803



5

Your child can get a flu shot at the Waterford Public Schools School-Based Health Center



Did you know?

The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease.

How do I sign my child up for the flu shot?

flu consent form.

In order for your child to receive a flu shot, you must fill out an enrollment form and flu vaccine consent form. Enrollment forms can be found on the UCFS Healthcare's website -<u>https://www.ucfs.org/services/school-based-health-centers/</u> or by scanning the QR code

Please call the SBHC Line at 860-822-2803 to schedule an appointment.



