



## GREAT NECK NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2023

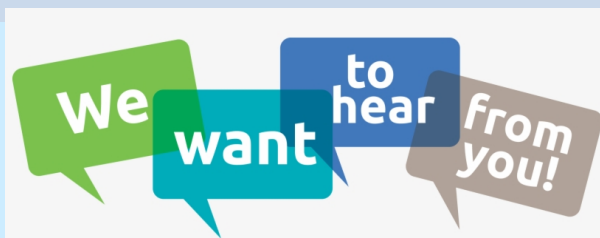
### UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

December 8	PJ Day to benefit CT Children's Hospital	
December 9-15	Five Below Fundraiser	
December 13	PTA Meeting– GN Library	5:30pm
December 18-22	GN Spirit Week	
December 22	Early Dismissal	12:25pm
Dec. 25– Jan. 1	No School– School Holiday	

Get a glimpse of what's going on inside the school by clicking [here](#)

**TAKE  
NOTE...**

Please remind your child (ren) that cell phones are not permitted out of backpacks during school hours or on the bus. The recording or photographing of other students is prohibited.



**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.**

Dear Great Neck Families,

Report cards will be distributed on Friday, December 8th to our students. It has been a productive trimester for your children! Join us in celebrating their progress and viewing the standards-based skills we worked on together this fall. Here is the link to our district parent handbook. Reach out to the classroom teacher with any questions.

[Waterford Public Schools](#)  
[Elementary Report Card](#)  
[Handbook](#)

Happy December,  
Billie Shea



# *A Message from the ELA Coaches to GN Families:*

Dear Families,

We are often asked how parents can help with reading at home. The absolute best use of your time with your children is spent reading together. In this link, you will enjoy learning about all the benefits of reading together outside of school. If you would like any further information or have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Article entitled: [\*\*Why Is It Important to Read to Your Child?\*\*](#)

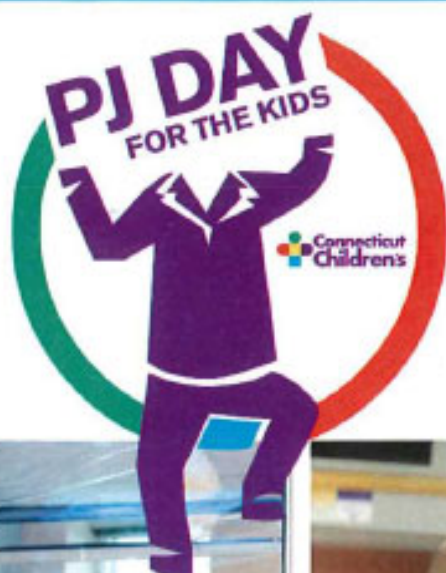
Sincerely,

Deryn Winthrop ([dwinthrop@Waterfordschools.org](mailto:dwinthrop@Waterfordschools.org))

Kim Podeszwa ([Kpodeszwa@waterfordschools.org](mailto:Kpodeszwa@waterfordschools.org))



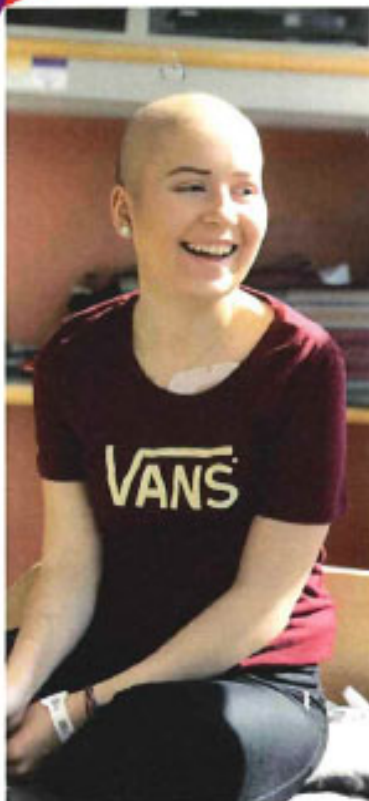




A statewide initiative raising funds, spirits  
and awareness for kids battling cancer.

Great Neck Elementary School

**Friday, December 8, 2023**



### Supporting Connecticut Children's Since 2011

Donate \$1, or more, to wear PJs in support of kids at Connecticut Children's who wear their PJs for long periods of time while enduring treatment.

Scan to Donate, or visit **[www.pjdayforthekids.org](http://www.pjdayforthekids.org)**

**<https://give.connecticutchildrens.org/greatneckschool23>**



PJ Day for the Kids has raised nearly \$3 million dollars, funding vital childhood cancer research, clinical trials and care at Connecticut Children's.



# Great Neck's Holiday Spirit Week

<b>Monday, Dec. 18th</b>	<b>Red &amp; Green or Blue &amp; White Explosion</b> <i>Wear as much red and green as possible or blue and white in honor of friends who celebrate Hanukkah</i>  
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 19th</b>	<b>Candy Cane Day</b> <i>Dress all out in stripes or anything else to resemble a candy cane</i> 
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 20th</b>	<b>Ugly Sweater Day</b> <i>Wear a funny, ugly, or festive holiday sweater/shirt</i> 
<b>Thursday, Dec. 21st</b>	<b>Holiday Headwear</b> <i>Wear a holiday hat, headband, earrings, scarf, or anything else to show your festive spirit</i> 
<b>Friday, Dec. 22nd</b>	<b>'Twas the Day Before Break</b> <i>Prepare for a perfect winter break in your comfiest pajamas</i> 



# *Jody's Wish*

Jody's wish ornament was created as a memorial ornament to honor and remember Jody Nazarchyk. Jody dedicated her life to helping and serving others.

Jody's wish was that all children would have whatever they needed. The thought of a child being sad or disappointed because they did not get a special gift or could not afford the equipment to play a sport was heartbreaking to Jody. Jody always tried to find a way to make it happen for the children. The proceeds from these ornaments will help us continue making Jody's Wish come true. All of the proceeds will be donated to Waterford Youth and Family Services to help make children's dreams come true. Thank you!

To get your Jody's Wish ornaments please contact Ethel Reed at  
[Ethel.d.Reed@gmail.com](mailto:Ethel.d.Reed@gmail.com)



***Suggested minimum donation: \$10.00***

## August 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	FD	31	

(2 day - 2 cumulative)

- 8/28 - ± Staff Convocation
- 8/29 - \* PD - No School - PK-12
- 8/30 - First Day of School

## September 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
SH	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
SH	26	27	28	29

(19 days - 21 cumulative)

- 9/4 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)
- 9/25 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## October 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
SH	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

(21 days - 42 cumulative)

- 10/9 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## November 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	PD	8	9	SH
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	School Holiday		
27	28	29	30	

(17 days - 59 cumulative)

- 11/7 - \* PD No School for Students- PK-12
- 11/10 - School Holiday (Schools Closed for Students), P/T Conferences
- 11/22 - 11/24 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## December 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
School Holiday				

(16 days - 75 cumulative)

- 12/22 - Early Dismissal PK-12
- 12/25 - 12/29 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## January 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
SH	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
SH	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

(21 days - 96 cumulative)

- 1/1 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)
- 1/15 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)
- 1/18-1/23 - \*\* Midterm Exams: Early Dismissal 9-12

## February 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
SH	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	

(19 days - 115 cumulative)

- 2/19-2/20 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## March 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	PT	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	SH

(20 days - 135 cumulative)

- \*\* 3/7 - P/T Conferences: Early Dismissal PK-12
- 3/29 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## April 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
School Holiday				
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	PD			

(16 days - 151 cumulative)

- 4/8 - 4/12 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)
- 4/30 - \* PD No School for Students - PK-12

## May 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
SH	28	29	30	31

(22 days - 173 cumulative)

- 5/27 - School Holiday (Schools Closed)

## June 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	LD	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

(8 days - 181 cumulative)

- 6/6 - 6/11 - \*\* Final Exams: Early Dismissal 9-12
- 6/11 - \*\* Early Dismissal PK-12
- 6/12 - Last Day of School Early Dismissal PK-12



**NOTE:** Snow days will be added onto the school year as needed.

BOE Approved: December 8, 2022  
Revised: June 22, 2023

± Staff Convocation is for all staff of the Waterford Public Schools  
\* Professional Development is for Administrators, Teachers, Paraprofessionals 8 AM-3 PM  
\*\* Full day for Paraprofessionals



## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Drop-off times** at Great Neck Elementary School for **all students** in grades PK-5 are between **8:25 and 8:35 a.m.** 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 greet 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, **DO NOT under any circumstances** 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.



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Please visit [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to add funds to your child's account.

Alternate choice of assorted cereals and muffins  
Available daily/Fruit & milk included

Breakfast pizza  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Yogurt & Goldfish grahams  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Egg & Cheese  
Breakfast sandwich  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Banana Bread  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

WG Cinnamon Roll  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Banana Bread  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Yogurt & Goldfish grahams  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Sweet Potato Bun  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Mini French toast  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Mini French toast  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Egg & Cheese  
Breakfast sandwich  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Oatmeal breakfast Round  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Breakfast Pizza  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Mini French toast  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Egg & Cheese  
Breakfast sandwich  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

Yogurt & Goldfish grahams  
Choice of Fruit  
100% fruit Juice  
Milk

**WINTER BREAK**  
Warm Winter Wishes!  
SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
NO SCHOOL

School Holiday  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Eat at least one fruit or  
Vegetable at every meal!

School Holiday  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Play outside for at 20  
minutes/dress for the weather!

School Holiday  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Stay hydrated  
Drink plenty of water daily!

School Holiday  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Make sure to get plenty of  
sleep for a healthy body!

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Please visit [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to add funds to your child's account.

For the 23-24 school year, students qualified for **Reduced status** will receive one lunch at no cost per day

Macaroni & Cheese  
Steamed broccoli  
Baby carrots  
Diced pears Milk  
*National Oatmeal Cookie Day*

Chicken Nuggets  
Steamed Red potatoes  
Sliced carrots  
Dinner roll  
Fresh Fruit Choice Milk

Chicken Tender" parmesan  
Penne Pasta in marinara sauce  
Green beans  
Garlic knot  
Diced peaches Milk

Beef & Cheese Taco Salad  
Fiesta beans  
Mini- corn muffin  
Tostito chips salsa cup  
Pineapple chunks Milk

Cheese Pizza  
Baby carrots Ranch  
Cucumber slices  
Apple juice  
Fresh fruit choice Milk

Chicken Patty on a WG Roll  
Potato Wedges  
Golden corn  
Diced pears Milk

French Toast Syrup cup  
Sausage links  
Potato tots  
Mango juice  
Fresh Fruit Milk

Cheese Pizza  
Baby carrots Ranch  
Cucumber slices  
Apple juice  
Fresh fruit choice Milk

**Holiday Dinner!**  
Turkey & gravy  
Mashed potatoes  
Green beans Craisins  
Pumpkin bread Milk

Cheeseburger  
Baked beans  
Sweet potato gems  
Diced peaches Milk

**Meatless Monday!**  
Baked Italian Combo  
Mozzarella stick & Breaded Ravioli  
Caesar Salad  
Bread stick  
Diced pears Milk

Orange chicken  
Brown Rice  
Steamed Broccoli  
Diced carrots  
Mandarin oranges Milk

Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo  
Romaine & garbanzo bean Salad  
Garlic Knot  
Fresh Fruit Milk

Chicken "Drummies"  
Smile fries Golden corn  
Dinner Roll  
Apple sauce Milk

Cheese Pizza  
Baby carrots Ranch  
Cucumber slices  
Sidekick or Apple juice  
Milk

School Holiday  
No School  
Winter Break

Winter Break  
No school  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Stay hydrated  
Drink plenty of water daily!

Winter Break  
No School  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Eat at least one fruit or  
Vegetable at every meal!

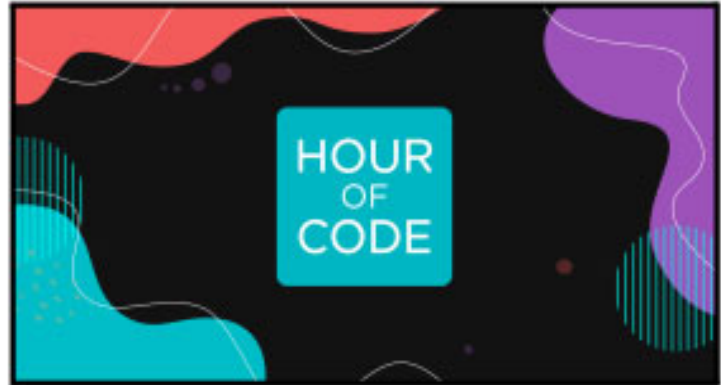
Winter Break  
No School  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Play outside for at 20  
minutes/dress for the weather!

Winter Break  
No School  
*Wellness Tip:*  
Make sure to get plenty of  
sleep for a healthy body!



# 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.

Dates for Hour of Code Events:	
12/12	Quaker Hill
Week of 1/16-1/19	Oswegatchie
Week of 1/22-1/26	Great Neck

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](mailto:Registration@wllct.org) with any  
registration questions.

CONNECT WITH US





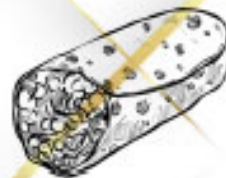
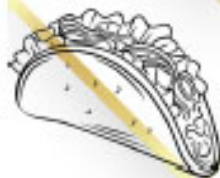
**COME JOIN US &  
HELP SUPPORT THE GREAT  
NECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PTA!**

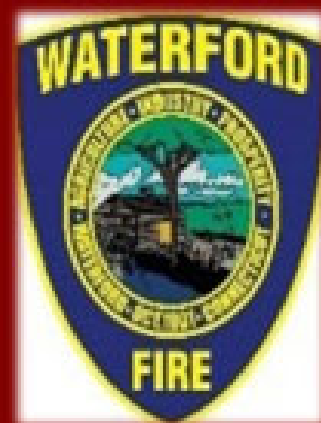
**THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 2023  
@ MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL IN  
WATERFORD**

*11am-2pm & 5pm-8pm*

*20% of earnings will go to the PTA and  
cash donations will be accepted too!*

*Look for jar labeled Great Neck Elementary School.*





# Stuff the Police Cruiser & Fire Truck

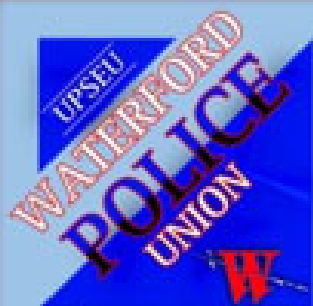


**Annual Food, Toy & Clothing Drive**  
**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10AM-2PM**  
**at Waterford Walmart**

All donations go to Waterford Youth Services  
to provide to families in need.

Free Candy Canes! K-9 Hodges & K-9 Ginger! Santa!

HAPPY  
*Holidays*



# Light up the Night!

## Waterford Tree Lighting

Friday, December 8th

6pm to 8pm at the Jordan Green

FEATURING:

DJ PIX AND A HEARTWARMING HOLIDAY CHORUS

YUMMY TREATS AND HOT COCOA

LUMINARIA DISPLAY CREATED BY WATERFORD STUDENTS

OUR WATERFORD OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HERO

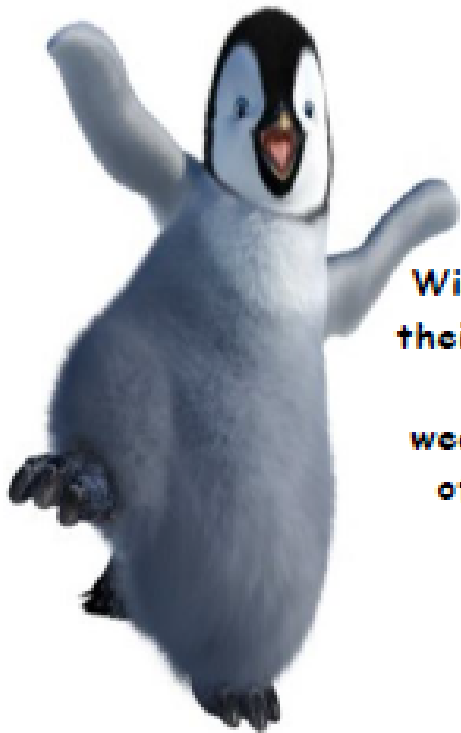
VISIT WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS!

General parking at Waterford Public Library and Waterford Community Center. Handicap parking available at Jordan Green

*proudly present by*







# Happy Feet Are Warm Feet!

Winter is quickly coming. Women, men and their children sometimes have to leave their homes with only the clothes they are wearing at the time. The generous support of the community is appreciated to help meet their immediate needs.

**Can you spare a pair?**

- New Warm Socks.
- New Slippers
- Also collecting  
New Scarfs and  
Mittens/Gloves

All sizes

For Women, men and  
children until Dec. 14



Safe Futures provides shelter and support to families affected by domestic violence and abuse.



Formerly the Women's Center of Southeastern CT  
*Saving lives, restoring hope and changing the future*

For questions & pick up call Royce Hoffman  
860-460-8889

*Saving lives, restoring hope and changing the future*



# Shoebox Santa



**Imagine having to leave your home with just the clothes on your back. If you only had a shoebox to pack with a few items, what would they be?**

The idea is very simple. Cover an empty shoebox with holiday paper, determine whether you are making the box for a mom, dad, boy or a girl and fill the box with your creativity and thoughtfulness!

- FIND A MEDIUM SIZED EMPTY SHOEBOX
- WRAP THE LID AND BOX SEPARATELY IN WRAPPING PAPER
- FILL THE BOX USING THE LIST BELOW FOR IDEAS & INSPIRATION:
  - ✓ PERSONAL ITEMS (SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, HAIRBRUSH, KLEENEX, ETC.)
  - ✓ THINGS TO LOVE (MUSIC, TOYS, BODY LOTION, ETC.)
  - ✓ THINGS TO DO (PEN, PAD, NOTE CARDS, CRAYONS, PUZZLE BOOK, ETC.)
  - ✓ THINGS TO WEAR (JEWELRY, HAT, GLOVES, MAKE-UP, NAIL POLISH, ETC.)
  - ✓ FOR THINGS THAT DON'T FIT IN THE BOX (GIFT CARD TO WAL-MART, TARGET, GROCERY STORE, GAS CARD, SUBWAY)
- LABEL YOUR SHOEBOX (GENDER, AGE)

**Shoeboxes will be picked up Thursday, Dec. 14th**

All items should be new, unwrapped & age appropriate

No perishables or food items please!

*Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!*

Safe Futures provides shelter and support to families affected by domestic violence and abuse.

## Note from The Nurse

### Attention all preschool parents!

As per State regulation, your pre-school child will need to obtain an influenza vaccination by the end of this year.

Proof of vaccination must be handed in to the nurse no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Thank you,

Margaret Goldschneider RN

Great Neck Elementary School Nurse

860-442-2593 ext. 3104

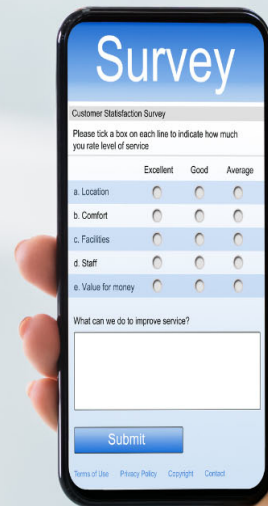
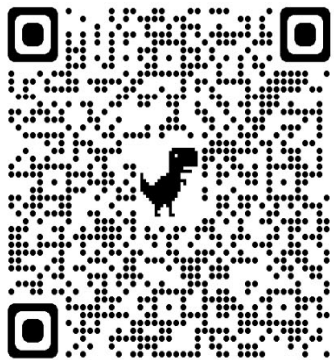
Fax: 860-437-3326



[www.danyelgoldschneider.com](http://www.danyelgoldschneider.com)



# We want to hear from you!



Please complete our online survey





# 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.

5

## 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



SCAN ME

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



**Protect your child from the flu this season!**

*Your child can receive their flu vaccine with a signed enrollment and flu consent form.*

## 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?

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 -

<https://www.ucfs.org/services/school-based-health-centers/>  
or by scanning the QR code

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

