

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack



January 19, 2024

Dear CES Families,

Happy National Popcorn Day! The Willington PTA very generously gifted a popcorn maker to each school so we put Center's to good use for a school-wide popcorn party at the end of the day. Students enjoyed a bag of popcorn while learning about the history and watching a few short animated videos with a popcorn theme.

Congratulations to our fourth grade band and chorus members on a wonderful performance Wednesday evening! Thank you to all the families and friends who came to see the showcase.



Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Lisa Cushing, Principal (lcushing@willingtonct.org)

From Señora Wozniak, Spanish Teacher

Did you know....? Learning another language has numerous benefits! Read below to discover Señora Wozniak's Top 10:

1. Kids broaden their perspective of others, increasing their empathy.
2. As a window into other cultures, language learners will develop a better understanding of others from various societies.
3. It aids learners in understanding the grammatical concepts of their native language.
4. It increases the overall ability to focus.
5. Bilingual people are better equipped to handle conflict resolution and multi-task!
6. It has been shown that learning another language improves long-term memory and may even delay symptoms of dementia.

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7. Learning another language makes life more enjoyable by being able to try new foods, listen to a wider range of music, and make friends in other parts of the world.

8. With learning another language, a person is opened to more opportunities in the workforce. This is especially significant in our global job market.

9. It is a great asset in connecting with others and therefore, knowing yourself better, too.

10. Feeling more at ease while communicating with others, learning a language can boost your confidence level.

To read more, you can check out the following websites:

<https://www.whitbyschool.org/passionforlearning/6-little-known-benefits-of-language-learning>

<https://www.busuu.com/en/languages/benefits-learning>

Willington Public Schools 2024-2025 School Calendar Draft Survey

The Board of Education is requesting your feedback on the 2024-25 school calendar. Please click the link below to complete the survey by **Friday, January 26, 2024**. Thank you for sharing your feedback with us!

[WPS 2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

[WPS 2024-2025 School Calendar Draft Survey](#)

New Kindergarten Eligibility Entry Date

Children entering kindergarten must turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. This is a change from the previous kindergarten cutoff date of January 1, 2025. Based on the new Connecticut legislation, if your child's 5th birthday falls on September 2, 2024 through August 31, 2025, your child will enter kindergarten in the 2025-2026

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school year. If your child is eligible for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact the Center School office as soon as possible. 860-429-9367 or cesregistration@willingtonct.org

Lost & Found

Please stop by the CES cafeteria if your child is missing any articles of clothing.

Mark Your Calendar

January

31 Spirit Day - Switch Day (3rd grade's choice)

February

15 Early dismissal (staff development)

16 No school (staff development)

19 Presidents' Day (no school)

20 No school

PTA dates to remember

February 8th: No PTA Meeting! The winter Gala committee will be meeting at 6pm at Hall! At 7pm the 8th grade will be sponsoring a Bingo night! See the digital backpacks for more info!

February 14th: The PTA will have a fun Valentine's Day Backdrop for your kiddos to come and take a picture in front of during school. A member of the PTA will be taking the picture and sending it to your preferred method of communication via the form attached in the digital backpack. If you're unable to print and fill out the form to send back to school, please feel free to email the PTA with the information at: membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com

Information is due by Wednesday Feb 7th so we can plan accordingly. This is a free fun event sponsored by the PTA :)

February 23rd: Winter Family Gala - Dress up the family and come on out to HMS for some fun, food, and dancing. The PTA will be sponsoring our second annual Winter Family Gala. \$25 per family. There will be a DJ playing all the good stuff and Photographer getting some fun candids! The PTA will have a concession stand offering hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Cash and Card are both accepted.

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March 2nd-6th: Read Across America Week! The PTA will be sponsoring a Read-A-Thon to get our kiddos reading. More info to come!

March 14th: 6pm. PTA Meeting at Hall

Flyers

HMS Bottle and Can Drive

4th Grade Baby Photographs

WPS Help Wanted

WPS Budget Workshop Calendar

Eastconn Head Start

Valentine's Dance

WPL Mario Day

WPL Family Movie

WPL Take Your Child to the Library

WPL Reading with Sophie the Therapy Dog

CES Valentine's Day Pictures

PTA Winter Gala

Food Services Information – Meal Order Link

☀️ Reminder - There is NO Breakfast served on delayed openings ☀️

★ ★ We have some exciting news to share! Starting November 1st, 2023 all meals will be served at no cost to all families for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Each student may get one breakfast and one lunch at no cost daily. ★

★ ★ We still encourage families to apply for free or reduced meals. Forms are available on the school website or in the main office at each school. You may also apply online -

<https://linqconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=QHNJ5P> ★ ★

★ ★ Any questions please contact Mrs. Knight, sknight@willingtonct.org ★ ★

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★ 🍕 Please complete this form to order your child's lunch. If you have more than one child at the school click "Submit Another Response" after hitting submit for the other child. 🍕 ★

★ This form will be sent out twice a week. Once on Wednesday or Thursday and then you can find the link in the digital backpack every Friday. ★

🍎 This form is only for lunch. Breakfast will be served grab and go in the cafeteria when the children arrive at school. Children can grab their breakfast and head right to their classroom. 🍎

😊 PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM BY 12:00 p.m. ON SUNDAY 1/21. 😊

★ ★ Each child must select at least three of the five components on their tray to make a meal, including a fruit or vegetable. Children MUST select a fruit or a vegetable with their lunch every day. Without a vegetable or fruit, students will be charged the a la carte price instead of the meal price. For instance, a protein choice, a grain choice and a vegetable would make a complete meal. ★ ★

🍎 Our school district will again be encouraging students to try the new foods being offered. 🍎

★ ★ We are also asking for your help. Please explain the program to your child before they arrive at school. Every student needs to be prepared to select at least one fruit or one vegetable with their breakfast and lunch every day. We are planning our menus to include selections we know students like, as well as many different foods they may not have tried before. Please encourage your child to try these new foods. They just might find a new favorite! ★ ★

🍎 🍎 **FARM TO SCHOOL UPDATE - Apples served this week are locally grown at the Horse Listeners Orchard in Ashford, CT!** 🍎 🍎

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Knight at sknight@willingtonct.org or [860-487-2107](tel:860-487-2107).

[Link to sign up for lunches for the week of 1/22-1/26](#)

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[Link for PM Preschoolers to sign up for lunches for the week of 1/22-1/25](#)