

# CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Digital Backpack

**February 23, 2024**

Dear CES Families,

Tonight is the second annual Winter Family Gala, sponsored by the Willington PTA. Dress up the family and come on out to HMS for some fun, food, and dancing! Cost is \$25 per family. There will be a DJ and a photographer as well as a concession stand offering hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Cash and credit will both be accepted.

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Lisa Cushing, Principal ([lcushing@willingtonct.org](mailto:lcushing@willingtonct.org))

### **Pre-Kindergarten Screening & Application Information**

We are now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. The pre-kindergarten program is designed to provide services to children with special education needs within an inclusive setting. Peer models are accepted on a limited basis. Our screening is a brief yet comprehensive assessment of a child's pre-academic skills to ensure your child is developing skills appropriately. The selection of peers is made by program staff and administrators based upon previously determined criteria and a play-based screening session. Invitations to the play-based screening will be shared with applicants and their families in April. Eligible children must be three years of age by August 31 and cannot turn 5 before September 1st. Please return the completed application along with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire to Center Elementary School by mailing it to Stephanie Bergan or by dropping it off at the Center School office. **Applications are due by April 1st.** Applicants will be notified by the end of June if their child was accepted into the program. **Preschool screenings will be held May 6 and 7, 2024. There will be no regularly scheduled preschool on those two dates to accommodate the screening process.**

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### 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

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 at 860-429-9367 or [cesregistration@willingtonct.org](mailto:cesregistration@willingtonct.org)

### Kindergarten Waiver Screenings

If a child does not meet the new cutoff date of September 1st, families may submit a waiver request in writing for early entry to kindergarten. Please submit your written waiver request by **April 26, 2024** to [cesregistration@willingtonct.org](mailto:cesregistration@willingtonct.org). Families will be notified of the appointment time for their child's screening. Waiver screenings will be held on **May 3, 2024**. Families will be informed of either acceptance or denial of their waiver request by **May 14, 2024**.

### Kindergarten Orientation and Screenings

Kindergarten screenings for new students accepted for the fall of 2024 will be held **May 13 and 14, 2024**. Kindergarten orientation will be held in the library for families. **There will be no regularly scheduled kindergarten or preschool on May 13, 2024 to accommodate screenings.** Final decisions for all incoming kindergarteners will be made by the end of the day **May 14, 2024**.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### March

15	Early Dismissal - Staff Development
29	No School - Good Friday

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### PTA dates to remember

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

**March 14th:** 6pm PTA meeting at Hall

### Flyers

CES Baby Photos

PTA Read-a-thon

HMS Chili Cook-Off

HMS Raffle Donations Needed

WHS Richard Symonds Author Program

WPL Family Movie

WPL Leap Day Time Capsule

WPL Read Across America Day

WPRD March Boston Trip

WPRD Spring Camp

### Food Services Information – Meal Order Link

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

★★ Some families received negative balance emails a few weeks ago. If you have any questions regarding your student's balance please reach out to Stephanie Knight, Food Services Director - [sknight@willingtonct.org](mailto:sknight@willingtonct.org). ★★

★★ 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://lingconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=QHNJ5P> ★★

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★★ Any questions please contact Mrs. Knight, [sknight@willingtonct.org](mailto:sknight@willingtonct.org) ★★

★ 🍕 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 2/25. 😊

★★ 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! ★★

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

[Link to sign up for lunches for 2/26-3/1](#)

[Link for PM Preschoolers to sign up for lunches for the week of 2/26-2/29](#)