



**THURSDAY NOTICE**

**Important Dates**

Friday, September 3	All School Meeting – 9:30am
Monday, September 6	Labor Day - <b>School Holiday</b>
Thursday, September 9	Rosh Hashanah - <b>School Holiday</b>
Friday, September 10	Rosh Hashanah- <b>School Holiday</b>
Tuesday, September 14	PTO Exec Meeting – 7:00pm
Thursday, September 16	Back to School Night – 6:30pm
Friday, September 17	All School Meeting – 9:30am
Thursday, September 23	PTO General Meeting – 7:00pm
Friday, September 24	All School Meeting – 9:30am

The Columbus School Website is:

[www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus](http://www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus)

Check it out!

**Reminder:** The Thursday Notice deadline is every Tuesday.  
Please email all submissions to Teri Gaberman, Parent Coordinator at: [gabermant@norwalkps.org](mailto:gabermant@norwalkps.org).



**Welcome Back Columbus Families!!!**

**Emily Lopez, Principal**

Welcome to the start of a brand new school year! I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all our students and parents for a very successful and rewarding academic year at Columbus! I am looking forward to all of the learning that will go on here this year and seeing everyone at our upcoming school events. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at #203-899-2840 or by email at [lopeze@norwalkps.org](mailto:lopeze@norwalkps.org).



**What is the Thursday Notice?**

The Columbus Thursday Notice is a weekly newsletter which helps parents stay informed of all school events, activities, meetings, volunteer needs, school procedures and other items of interest. If you have any questions or information to include, please contact Teri Gaberman, Parent Coordinator at #203-899-2840, ext. 118 or by email: [gabermant@norwalkps.org](mailto:gabermant@norwalkps.org). Information to be included in the notice must be submitted by Tuesday, 3:00pm. Parents who would like to receive the notice via email, please email Teri with your request. All Thursday Notices are also available on the school website at [www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus](http://www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/columbus).



**School Information Packets**

School information packets were distributed to students that included a letter from our principal, Mrs. Lopez, a school calendar, an emergency/media access card, free/reduced lunch applications, and insurance information. Please be sure to contact your child's classroom teacher if you did not receive this packet. **It is extremely important that we have 100% lunch form returns!** All classrooms who return all its lunch applications and contact cards by September 13th will receive a Pizza Party!!!!



**All School Meeting**

**Friday, September 3rd- 9:30am**

The school week at Columbus ends with our traditional All School Meeting on Friday mornings at 9:30am. The entire school community gathers together in the auditorium to participate in classroom learning shares, PTO enrichment programs, sing songs and celebrate birthdays as a school community. Parents and guests are always welcome to attend. Dates and featured programs for All School Meetings will be posted in the Thursday Notice and on the Columbus website. Please remember to don your Columbus School Spirit Wear to ASMs. Prizes are given to classes with 100% school spirit wear on Fridays. Please remember to sign in on our ASM Family Attendance Sheet located outside the auditorium.



**Bus Dismissal & Requests**

Students will remain in their classrooms until they are called to board their busses. They will meet their bus line teachers at their designated locations for a quick attendance check and then be escorted outside to board the buses. Kindergarten students will be escorted from their classrooms directly to the buses. Parents with bus stop requests, changes or additions are asked to contact the "Bus Stop Request Line" at #203-854-4075.



**Arrival/Dismissal Procedures**

**Arrival Procedures for Student Drop Off:**

- \*Kindergarten students should be escorted to the classrooms via the Kindergarten entrance.
- \*The bus lane must remain clear on Chestnut Street.
- \*Arrival for drop-off students **will begin at 9:05 at the front door entrance.** Cars can begin to queue at 8:55 via the King Kennedy Apartments access to Arthur Perschino Way.
- \***Please do not allow your children to get out of the car until you are the first car stopped at the stop sign.** Children exiting from the passenger side of the car should walk around the front of your car to the Main Entrance.
- \*All adults must enter through the front door entrance and sign-in at the Main Office. (Kindergarten parents may enter through the Kindergarten entrance with their children.)
- \*It is not necessary to escort children to class. Parents choosing to bring their children to the classroom must sign in at the Main Office and wear a Visitor's Badge. (This does not apply to kindergarten parents.)
- \*School begins at 9:05am. Students arriving after 9:20am are tardy and must be escorted into the Main Office and signed in by an adult.
- \*YMCA E-Care parents use the rain door only. Please ring the bell for admittance.

## Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures:

\*School is dismissed at 3:25pm. Parents picking up before that time must sign children out in the Main Office prior to 3:15pm.

\*Due to the business of dismissal, students will not be available for pick up between 3:15pm and 3:25pm.

\*The front door will open at 3:25pm. Please do not ring the bell for admittance before that time.

\*Parents must pick up kindergarten students directly from their classrooms. Enter through the front door and wait outside the classrooms until the students are dismissed. Kindergarten students are not dismissed from the front door unless accompanied by older siblings.

\*Parents wishing to come in to pick up their children (Gr. 1-5) at the front door must park their car and enter and exit through the front door.

\*Please do not move throughout the building at this time as we are trying to safely dismiss 355 students and need the hallways clear of extra traffic.

\*Please do not leave your car unattended in the pickup lane.

\*Staff members will dismiss students out the front entrance only when parents are the first car in the pick-up lane

\*Staff members are on duty from 3:25pm-3:40pm. Students left waiting after that time will be sent to wait outside the Main Office. Parents must enter the front door to get their children.

\*YMCA E-Care Parents must use the rain door only. Please ring the bell for admittance.

**Front Door Pick Up Notice:** Please be patient. It takes time for staff members posted at the front door entrance to recognize cars and match parents to children. To expedite this process and for easy identification, may we suggest placing a name sign in your driver-side window.



## Phone Calls to Classrooms

Phone calls to classrooms will automatically be put through to teachers' voicemail. Teachers will check their messages two times during the school day. Messages regarding students' change of after school plans must be left before 3:00 pm. We cannot guarantee messages left after that time will be received.

## Where were our CMS Kids this Summer?

Did you remember to take a picture of your child in their CMS spirit wear this summer? If so, please send it to Teri Gaberman or Mr. Smith either by hard copy or email. If you didn't get a chance to, you still have time – technically it's still summer – just take a picture of your child in any CMS garb and let us know the name of your child and where the picture was taken. It will then be added to a Columbus Kids Bulletin Board soon to come! Thanks!!!



## Lunch Schedule

**Kindergarten:** 12:00pm (in classrooms)

**Grades 1 & 2:** 11:45 – 12:15pm

**Grade 3:** 12:15 – 12:45pm

**Grade 4:** 1:00 – 1:30pm

**Grade 5:** 12:45 – 1:15pm

The cost of hot lunch is \$2.20 per day. Also, breakfast is available to students at a cost of \$1.25 per day. Please make your checks payable to "Whitson Foods." Free/reduced breakfast and lunch applications went home yesterday. **Please return the completed applications (one per household) by no later than September 13<sup>th</sup> regardless of whether your child participates in the school lunch program.**



## Columbus PTO News

Our CMS PTO Co-Presidents Jimi Napoli ([jimicmspto@gmail.com](mailto:jimicmspto@gmail.com)) and Kathie Oberst ([kathiecmspto@gmail.com](mailto:kathiecmspto@gmail.com)) have a dynamic array of events and activities planned throughout the school year. Please note the following:

**PTO Executive Meeting:** Tues., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

**PTO General Meeting:** Thurs., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Columbus Library. Featured Guest Speakers, Emily Lopez, Principal and Dee Walters, Second Grade Teacher will present a program to parents on "Teaching and Learning in a Bank Street Classroom" and on "H.O.T. School Philosophy and Strategies."

**Welcome Back Family Picnic – Sat., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.**

*Save the Date!!! Details to follow!!*



## Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser!!!

This year, the Columbus PTO "Innisbrook Gift Wrap" Fundraiser kicks off on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> and will end on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>!!! Innisbrook Gift Wraps offers high quality products at great values and all gift wrap is environmentally friendly! Innisbrook packets will be sent home with students on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!! The CMS PTO Gift Wrap Chairperson is Lori DiJoseph.



## CMS Cooks!

The CMS cookbook committee has been working diligently to bring our Columbus families a **NEW** and **EXCITING** fundraiser this fall!! We would like for everyone to become a part of this school community project in the following ways:(1)Email 3-4 of your favorite (non-copyrighted) family recipes to [CMSCooks@gmail.com](mailto:CMSCooks@gmail.com) or go directly to our publisher's website at [www.typensave.com](http://www.typensave.com) using login code: CMScookbook46 and the Password: CMS30. We will be offering advertising space in the book for Norwalk businesses with a discount to Columbus family businesses. Please contact Tara Forschino at #203-855-8060 with any questions.