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# Webster News

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Issue #1  
Week of September 25

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Fall 2017

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The Daniel Webster Magnet School PTA Newsletter

**From the PTA Executive Committee:  
Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!**

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**Welcome  
Back**

**School is in  
session!**



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## Fall 2017 Off to a Great Start

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Welcome to the 2017-18 school year at Daniel Webster Magnet School! *Webster News* is a bi-weekly newsletter that will inform you of important events in the Webster community. Learn more about the PTA and how you can get involved at [www.ptawebster.org](http://www.ptawebster.org).

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## Stay Connected!

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**New online platform makes staying connected easy**

The Webster PTA is pleased to introduce parents to our new mobile directory on SchoolBee. SchoolBee is a secure online school directory that is only accessible to our school's parents and school personnel via assigned user ID and password. Access is granted by invitation only. If you are a returning PTA member, you should have already received an email with a subject line starting "SchoolBee Invitation" - please use your personalized link to complete your SchoolBee registration. If you are just joining the PTA, you will receive your SchoolBee email upon registration. If you have any questions, please contact Webster's directory chair, Christine Haran, at: [web@ptawebster.org](mailto:web@ptawebster.org).

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## Meet the Teachers Night

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**Webster opens its doors to all parents on Sept. 28th**

On Thursday, September 28th, parents will have the opportunity to meet with their children's teachers. Parents of students in K-2 will come at 6pm, and those with students in 3-5 (including District Kaleidoscope) will come at 7pm. CAMPEL teachers and other specialists will also be available to meet with parents at 7pm. Please plan to attend this important event!

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## Getting to Know You

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**PTA welcomes new Webster families**

The first PTA-sponsored event of the school year, the New Student Pizza Social, was held on Friday, Sept. 8th. Incoming kindergarteners and families new to Webster gathered by the Learning Garden to enjoy pizza and met other new members of the Webster community. A great time was had by all!

# From the Nurse's Desk

## Healthy Kids are Happy Kids

Webster nurses offer important and helpful advice on keeping all kids healthy

Dear Webster Families:

Welcome or welcome back to the 2017-2018 school year! We have gotten off to a great start and the children seem to be settling in nicely with their teachers and classmates.

A few reminders~you should have received a copy of the Health Office Policies. Please read it carefully as it explains just about all you need to know regarding the district policies and regulations. If you don't have one, we will be happy to send one home with your child.

### **The important things all parents must know:**

Current physical exams are REQUIRED for all students in Grades K, 2, and 4 and any student new to the district. If your child is not in any of these grades, but has a physical, kindly submit it. Children in Grades 1, 3, 5 are screened for height and weight, vision and hearing, and scoliosis for 5th graders. If these are done by the physician, we do not screen the children in school.

Please do not send in any medications for your child unless there are physician's orders

with a parent signature. This includes over the counter medications, eye drops, skin preparations, asthma medications, Epi-Pens and any other medications the child uses. By state law, **no medication can be administered without a doctor's order.**

**“We are here to help and care for your child”**

Many children have allergies to various foods or other medical conditions which don't allow them to eat certain items.. Kindly provide **safe snacks and treats** for your child so he or she may be included in birthday parties. We are happy to store them in the Health Office or Main Office. Parents often bring in cupcakes or other treats and these cannot be consumed by some children. We ask for your sensitivity and understanding when celebrating your child's birthday.

If your child has any communicable illness (strep, lice, conjunctivitis, flu), please call the Health Office with your child's name and teacher so we may send out notices. No names are mentioned on these Health Alerts. There is

24-hour voice mail, so you may leave a message at any time. Please be sure we have current contact information in the Nurse's Office. If you change your address, phone number or names of people who may pick up your child, please let us know. If a person is not listed on the emergency card in our office, we cannot release your child. Please provide emergency contacts that are local (not more than 15-20 minutes away from New Rochelle).

Please encourage your children to eat a nutritious breakfast before coming to school. For safety reasons, children should be wearing sturdy sneakers with socks, especially when using playground equipment. They cannot participate in gym unless they are wearing sneakers. If your child has gone to the emergency room or urgent care for any illness or injury, it is very helpful if we are informed. Please send in a doctor's note detailing any restrictions as far as gym or recess so we can let the teachers and monitors know.

**(continued on page 4)**



## October 4th: International Walk-to-School Day

Good for your health, good for the environment!

October 4th is International Walk-to-School Day. This is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record breaking participation – each October.



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# Hurricane Hits Close to Home

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## Webster Community Touched by Irma

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The impacts of natural disasters are felt in New Rochelle

From massive hurricanes to flooding and earthquakes, natural disasters have recently been happening at an alarming rate. While we here in New Rochelle have been lucky to have been spared from a direct hit, many Webster families have been impacted by the horrible ongoing events in the Caribbean and the southern continental U.S.

One Webster mother, Tiphonie Yanique (mother to 1st-grader Mosiah McGarrott), has recounted her personal experience in an op-ed in the September 12th edition of *The New York Times* titled “Americans in a Battered Paradise.” In the piece, Yanique discusses the Category 5 hurricane that hit her home island, St. Thomas, several days before it bore down on Florida. She also shared her experiences in an interview with NPR’s Lulu Garcia-Navarro on September 17th’s *Weekend Edition* show. You can hear her interview about the hurricane and the U.S. Virgin Islands at: <http://www.npr.org/2017/09/17/551604304/a-virgin-islands-author-on-irma>

While Yanique has been able to reach most of her family and friends on the island, conditions

## Health and Safety Committee

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Our very own Principal, Melissa Passerelli, and City Manager Charles Strom chair the New Rochelle H&S Committee. Look here for updates on construction projects and new initiatives. This month, H&S has approved testing for radon at all schools.



remain precarious and as we have seen hurricane season is far from over.

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“...many Webster families have been impacted by the horrible ongoing events in the Caribbean and the southern continental U.S.”

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This month, Webster also welcomed in two students who evacuated from their home on the island of Saint Martin in advance of Hurricane Irma. Sylvan (K-Boncardo) and Solomon (5-Horton) Highstein were lucky to have their grandmother’s home in New Rochelle to evacuate to, as their home and school back on Saint Martin were devastated by the storm. We look forward to having them be part of the Webster community this fall.

If you or your child is interested in starting an initiative to help those affected in the Caribbean, please email:

[PTAWebsterNews@gmail.com](mailto:PTAWebsterNews@gmail.com)

## PTAC Update

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News from the PTA Council of New Rochelle

The PTA Council (PTAC) of New Rochelle is an consists of its own Executive Committee (PTAC officers) and members include: all PTA unit Presidents, SEPTA presidents, and one PTAC rep from each school. Look for PTAC updates in the *Webster News* here!

## BOE Update

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News from the New Rochelle Board of Education

This year’s BOE PTA reps are Rebecca McCloskey and Christine Haran. All BOE meetings are open to the public. The calendar can be found at [nred.org](http://nred.org). Look for BOE updates here! If you have any questions please email:

[PTAWebsterNews@gmail.com](mailto:PTAWebsterNews@gmail.com).

## Read-a-Thon

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### Upcoming PTA event

A district-wide Read-a-Thon will be happening in October! This is a huge fundraiser for the PTA *and* an opportunity to encourage our kids to read more.

Look for Read-a-Thon information that will be sent home with your child soon.

# Events Calendar

Mark these important dates on your calendars!

**Thursday, 9/28:** Meet the Teachers Night (6pm for K-2, 7pm for 3-5, CAMPEL, District Kaleidoscope, and specialists)

**Wednesday, 10/4:** International Walk-to-School Day

**Wednesday-Thursday, 10/4-10/5:** Picture Day

**Monday 10/9:** NO SCHOOL: Columbus Day

**Tuesday 10/10:** PTA Meeting at 7pm in the Webster Library



## Become a PTA Member

Help fund activities and events to enhance your children's school

Support the work of the Webster PTA by becoming a member. You can pay online or send in your membership envelope to school. Not only do your dues benefit the school directly, there are also savings at various PTA events and activities. PTA membership cards also allow you to receive discounts with major corporations. Carry the card that counts and make a difference in the lives of our children. The cost is only \$10/year. Visit the PTA website to sign up at: [www.websterpta.org](http://www.websterpta.org). Contact PTA Membership Chair Nicole Woodley with any questions: [nviola67@hotmail.com](mailto:nviola67@hotmail.com)

## Gift Wrap Sale

The PTA's largest annual Fundraiser needs your help!

Please continue to help your children sell gift wrap to raise funds for the PTA. 50% of all sales go directly to the PTA! The deadline for this event is **October 2nd.**



## "From the Nurse's Desk"

(Continued from page 2)

If the child is on crutches, we will assign someone to accompany him/her in the elevator.

Finally, we are here to help and care for your child. If there is a family situation that is potentially upsetting to your son or daughter (family illness, divorce, job loss), we will understand if your child comes to us frequently with complaints of headaches, stomachaches or other symptoms that are often the result of anxiety, not illness. Please keep us informed of any such situation. All matters are treated with confidentiality and sensitivity.

Any questions, please contact the Health Office at [914-576-8411](tel:914-576-8411) or one of us by email [rkaphan@nredlearn.org](mailto:rkaphan@nredlearn.org), or [gconroy@nredlearn.org](mailto:gconroy@nredlearn.org).

Many thanks and we are looking forward to a successful and productive school year!

*Nurse Robin, Nurse Gail, and Nurse Brenda*

## Publish in Webster News

Contact the PTA if you want to be heard!

If you would like to submit an event date, reminder, comment or suggestion to the newsletter, please email: [PTAWebsterNews@gmail.com](mailto:PTAWebsterNews@gmail.com).