



## From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

As our teachers and students return to Emerson-Williams from the April Vacation, we will begin the very important process of creating the class groupings for the 2014 - 2015 school year. As a Staff, this process is incredibly important to us, and we spend a lot of time analyzing many different factors as we create these groupings. The primary goal of this process is to create very balanced classes. This is a process that requires a great deal of thought, time, and input from multiple sources. To assist in this process, teachers prepare placement cards for each student. Teachers reflect on students' academic progress as well as their social / emotional development throughout the course of the school year. Once these individual student cards have been created by each teacher, the grade level team meets together to construct the groups, based on the number of sections there will be at each grade level the following school year. There are many factors that we look closely at when we are creating those groupings. One thing we look at is the overall balance of the classes. This overall balance includes total class size, gender, specific learning needs, and ethnicity. With regard to creating an academic balance among the classes, we look closely at our data. We look at report card grades, DRA levels, and many other district-wide assessments that are administered throughout the course of the school year. We also look very closely at the learning profile for each of our students. We analyze the work habits of the students, as well as the specific teaching strategies that teachers needed to employ to reach specific students.

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## From the Principal's Desk....continued

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Teachers spend time discussing which students should (and should not) be placed together. These conversations focus on individual learning styles, behavioral patterns, and observed social interactions throughout the school year. Another thing that we analyze closely is the amount and type of support services that various students receive. We work hard to divide up the students needing these support services among the classes. The support services analyzed include the following: Reading Tutoring, Math Tutoring, Special Education Instruction / Resource, Speech and Language Support, Counseling from School Psychologist, Counseling from School Social Worker, English Language Learner Tutoring, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Paraprofessional Support. We even look at the number of students per class who are involved with our instrumental music and choral programs.

Once the groupings are prepared by the grade level teachers (with no specific teachers assigned to the groupings), they are then reviewed a number of times by a number of people (Specials Teachers, Special Education Team, and Principal). Over the course of the summer, there are some variables that do affect these "rough drafts" of groupings - most notably, students who move in to the district and students who move out of the district. Balancing all of the classes is of high importance, and these factors do affect the overall balance in the classrooms. Due to the fact that the class placement process is incredibly time consuming, intricate, and involves a high level of thought / analysis on the part of our classroom teachers, we are not able to grant parent requests for teacher choices over the Spring and Summer. Parent cooperation, understanding, and appreciation of this process is greatly appreciated. This is a process that is very important to our teachers, and we take it very seriously. However, with that being said, great communication between parents and the Emerson-Williams staff is very important to all of us. If there is something that you would like for us to think about and consider as we make the groupings, please feel free to communicate that information to your child's classroom teacher or to me directly.

Sincerely,

Neela Thakur

# Message from the Presidents....

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Hello Emerson-Williams Families!

April is here and Spring is in the air. Spring vacation is here, and hopefully the kids will be able to get some much needed time in some nice weather before SBAC testing begins.

We have some exciting events coming up which you will read in this month's Tiger topics, but I would like to point out just a few important ones that will happen before our next Tiger Topics comes out.

- **May 4<sup>th</sup> thru May 10<sup>th</sup> is TV Turn Off week** – Roller Skating, Restaurant Night, Rita's, and more...
- **Talent Show, May 9<sup>th</sup>** - Lots of awesome acts, including a Staff act which should be fantastic!
- **Early Raffle prize for Strawberry Festival** – We will be raffling off a pass for 4 for one night stay at the new Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. This is an early Strawberry Festival raffle, as this prize must be redeemed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We will start selling tickets the week of TV Turn off week up until June 1<sup>st</sup>. A winner will be drawn on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please read through this month's Tiger Topics. More details will be discussed inside this month's edition. You may receive some email blasts, as well as some Facebook posts as time goes on with reminders and any other important things that pop up. Enjoy your break, and we hope to see you at May's PTO meeting.

Sincerely,

John Kiniry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Co-President

Paul LaPerriere, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President

*"Tell me, I forget. Teach me, and I remember. Involve me, and I learn!"*

2013-2014 PTO Meeting Schedule  
May 8 • June 12

7:00pm Upper Media Center

# Health Tips

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From Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

**6<sup>th</sup> graders:**

**Keep getting the physical forms in to me. I still have a few students that have not gotten them in. You will not be allowed to enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade in September without one.**

## **April is Backpack Safety Awareness Month!**

Of all the things we think about as parents of school children, backpack safety may be a low priority. However, backpacks **are** something to think about as using them improperly over time, can cause long term back problems. To promote a healthy spine for your child, here are some tips to consider:

**1.) Choose the Right Pack:** Choose a pack with wide, padded shoulders to help distribute the weight and contents of the backpack evenly. This will reduce pressure on the shoulders and neck.

**2.) Pack the Right Stuff:** Pack only the essential items needed. The weight of the backpack and contents should not exceed **15%**. For example, an **80 lb** student should not carry a backpack weight of more **12 lbs**.

**3.) Lift the Right Way:** When lifting a back pack from the floor, use both hands And bend at the knees.

**4.) Wear it Right:** Use both straps with a snug fit. Also, the waist strap is highly recommended (if the back pack is equipped with this feature).

Linda Ciarcia, RN, BSN  
School Nurse

# A Message from the Nomination Committee

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From: PTO Nominations Committee Submission deadline is April 30th

Hello, Emerson-Williams Families!!

We are announcing the open positions for the PTO Executive Board for the 2014-2015 school year:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The 1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President is a two-year position and shares the responsibilities with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Co-President, which will be Paul LaPerriere. Treasurer and Secretary are both one year positions.

At this time, we are asking any adults interested in running for either position, to please contact Paula Heinzmann ([PaulaPTO@yahoo.com](mailto:PaulaPTO@yahoo.com) 860.571.8939) or Martin Malicki ([Immal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Immal@sbcglobal.net) 860.529.0326).

As always, we are welcoming any volunteers to participate in our up-and-coming fundraisers and activities. For an updated calendar, please visit [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) . Make this **your** year to make a difference in our Emerson-Williams community.

Thank you.

Nomination Committee

## Wethersfield Public Schools Art Show

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The Wethersfield Public Schools will be holding their annual District Wide Spring Art Show at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, Wethersfield, during the month of May, May 1-28. The art show features a collection of art work from a number of students ranging from elementary, middle and high school.

# Labels for Education

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Thank you for supporting the Labels for Education program by sending in the bar codes from the labels of participating products. Keep them coming! A complete list of products is available at <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn-Points/Participating-Products>. You can also register your Shop-Rite and Price Chopper grocery cards so that EW earns points each time you buy a participating product in addition to the points we earn when you turn in the product's label. <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn-Points/-i-eLabels-for-Education-i-sup-SM-sup>. We redeem the points that we earn to buy much-needed equipment for our school. At the start of the 2013-2014 school year, we distributed markers, crayons, exercise balls, nutrition charts, glue sticks and more to teachers in nearly every grade. In addition, the PTO presented Miss Fox with a brand new karaoke machine for the music department. We are working toward another successful collection season with the Spring Bonus Collection sheet due out soon!

We deposited 7759 points into our account since December, 2013, giving us a total of 10,425. As we earn more points, the PTO is planning to purchase a Goodyear Multi-purpose Inflator pump for the Physical Education Department. Thank you again for your help! if you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koziol at [skoziol2011@hotmail.com](mailto:skoziol2011@hotmail.com).

## **NEW to Tiger Topics....Our "Classified Section"**

Parents now have the ability to place classified advertisements in our school newsletter. We are currently only making space for 10 ads per month and are running them on a first come first serve basis. The ads are restricted to only school or child related topics. There is a 60 word maximum and we cannot accept pictures. The cost for running an ad is \$5 for 1 month. Payments must be made payable to "EWPTO" to the attention of Holly Dyjak, Treasurer. Please include a note identifying that the payment is for TT Classified and leave it in the EW main office prior to submitting your request to Tiger Topics. An email submission of your ad must be received by 10 AM on the Saturday following the most recent PTO meeting.



# From The Art Room



Hello families! I am so excited to be having our school wide art show again this year! The date and additional details will be announced soon. Please take a look below at some of the concepts and techniques you child has been working on this year in art. There is also an Art link on our school homepage with questions you can ask your child about their artwork. Please visit our school Artsonia account to see the wonderful artwork they have been working so hard on. You can even create a fan club for your child so other family members and friends can comment on their artwork!  
© -Ms. Nogueira

**Kinders have been learning how to handle art materials with care, as well as practice their fine motor skills. Some things we have learned include; what a portrait is, how textures are used in artwork, and color theory including the primary and secondary colors. Later this year we will be learning about African art, architecture and creating patterns in our art. We will work with paint, found objects and model magic among lots of other exciting things!**

**1<sup>st</sup> graders are excited about all they now know about Chinese New Year! A few things we have learned so far include the art of Paul Klee, working with clay to create a relief tile and using patterns in our art. We also practiced a running stitch with yarn for our pattern mittens! Later this year we will learn about the art of India and the famous Impressionism artist Claude Monet.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade has learned about the famous artist Georgia O'Keefe. They created their own nature paintings and practiced observational skills. We are also learning how to create value in paintings. The most recent lesson was inspired by Henri Matisse and his beautiful Fauvism paintings. Fauvism means wild beast in French. Why would they call him that?! We will be learning about the art of Van Gogh as well as the abstract artist Kandinsky who painted to music.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been learning about the cultures of Australia and China. We have created clay fish sculptures and Aboriginal bark paintings. Perspective and how to create points of view including aerial and profile views were practiced in our snowman art. We are currently working on Chinese Imperial Robes. Later this year we will create copper relief plates and jungle collages inspired by Henri Rousseau!**

**4<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about Pop art and artists including Wayne Theibaud and Claus Oldenburg. They are using forms such as cylinders and cones to create dessert paintings. We have also learned how lines can be used by artists to express actions and emotions. Later this year we will be working with clay and create artwork inspired by Native American artifacts.**

**5<sup>th</sup> grade has been creating amazing abstract and realistic self-portraits. We have discussed why artists create portraits and what we can learn by looking at them. We studied portraits throughout history including; Picasso, DaVinci, and Grant Wood. We are currently learning color theory to create an altered color wheel. Later this year we will be creating gargoye sculptures and study Gothic architecture!**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade has focused on observational skills to create contour hand drawings in American Sign Language. They have also worked with wire to create an animal inspired by the artist Alexander Calder. 3-dimensional masks were created after learning about the Mexican celebration Dia de los Muertos. Currently, sixth graders are creating paper dragon sculptures after learning about the significance of the dragon in Chinese culture. Later this year we will continue to work on observational skills to create a still-life. We will be learning about Egypt and work with printmaking materials!**

# TV Turn Off Week

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"Our 2014 TV Turn Off Week will be held from May 4th thru May 10th. We are planning a bike safety presentation, a bingo night, a frozen treat night, the Talent Show, and much more. Dates and Times to be confirmed in the near future! Stay tuned to Facebook and Email blasts for updates!

Please contact Leslie Williams at [860-212-878](tel:860-212-878) or [LSILVA23@ATT.NET](mailto:LSILVA23@ATT.NET) to volunteer to help with planning additional events, such as a restaurant night. Thanks in advance for your help!"

## Target: Help Us Help Our School

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There's an easy way to help us raise money for our school –for books, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding. It's called Take Charge of Education, and it's helping our school right now. It's great for you too! REDcard holders receive a 5% discount on purchases, and free shipping on Target.com orders. Visit [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe) or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target® Visa® Credit Card, Target Credit Card® or Target Check Card®), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K–12 school of your choice. Don't have a REDcard? Apply in person at any Target store or go to [Target.com/redcard](http://Target.com/redcard). Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe).

## Donate Your Unused Coupons

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Wethersfield High School student Joseph Sottile is collecting expired and unused manufacturers' coupons to donate to U.S. military families in other countries. Military commissaries overseas accept expired coupons. Last year Joseph received the Board of Education's CABA award and a Youth in Action award for this project. Please drop off your coupon circulars or clipped coupons in the donation box at school, or to Joseph Sottile, in the bin on the front porch at 131 Cider Brook Drive.

## Strawberry Festival 2014

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The Strawberry Festival is scheduled for June 14th. Once again, we plan on having fun events for all at this year's festival. There are many exciting raffle prizes, including one we would like to bring to your attention. We have secured a one night getaway for a family of 4 to the new Great Wolf Lodge New England in Fitchburg Massachusetts (<http://www.greatwolf.com/>). We plan to start selling raffle tickets for this prize during TV Turn Off week. The lucky winner of this prize will need to set up and use the reservation by June 30, 2014. Due to that short timeframe, we are selling tickets early and drawing the lucky winner on June 1st.

More details of what will be happening at the day of the festival, as well as some of the attractions will follow in the next edition of Tiger Topics. Get ready for our Fun Family event that will put a cap on another wonderful year at Emerson-Williams. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Strawberry Festival Committee

## TV Turn Off Week Calendar of events!

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**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** – 5:30-7:30pm Roller Skating at Ron-A-Roll in Vernon – Great way to exercise with the kids!

**Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** – 6:00-7:30pm Bingo Night at EW – Have fun and win prizes!

**Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Restaurant Night – More details to follow

**Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** – 5:00-8:00pm Rita's Night on Silas Deane Hwy, Rocky Hill – Enjoy a frozen Ice, Custard, or both!

**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** – 5:30-7:30pm Picnic on the Lawn at EW – Pack up your dinner and a blanket to enjoy at EW on the lawn. Kids can play on the playscape after they eat!

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** – 7:00pm Annual Talent Show at Silas Deane Middle School Don't miss the 'Frozen' and the Teacher/Staff acts! Sure to be a fun event!

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** – TBD – Any ideas for a fun event?

Please call Leslie Williams at [860-212-6878](tel:860-212-6878) or email at [LSILVA23@att.net](mailto:LSILVA23@att.net) to help with TV Turn Off

Parents, we need your help!

## Direct to Home Selling Program

Everyone loves Yankee Candle! Great gifts for Easter and Mother's Day.

Please forward this E-mail to your friends and family to help raise additional funds for our organization. Order product online, ship product to customers home and our group receives 40% PROFIT. This promotion is good throughout the spring. Order your candles today and support

## Now Sell Online, Across the Country

Supporting your organization just got easier with our new fundraising website. Take advantage of ordering quality products from a brand you trust.

Your organization receives **40% Profit** on all orders.

### Ready to start shopping now?

Click on the link below and you are on your way to helping your organization reach its financial goals. See below to track and send emails out to friends! Please help our organization!



## Just follow 3 EASY STEPS:



### 1 Create your seller account

- Click 'Seller Login'
- Complete 'Sign up to be a Seller'
- Enter your Organization's Group # (listed on the letter in your seller packet)



### 2 Provide e-mail addresses\*

- Visit the 'Seller Dashboard'
- Enter e-mail addresses of friends and family members
  - AuntMary@email.com
  - UncleTom@email.com
  - CousinSally@email.com
  - Grandparents@email.com
  - BFF@email.com



### 3 Track your sales & profits

- Your contacts will receive a custom email from you explaining your Yankee Candle® Fundraising sale.
- Your friends and family members start shopping online.
- The profits from their purchases are applied to your selling total and your organization's grand total.
- Everything ships directly to your customers.

Invite your "Friends and Family" to shop at [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com). It's simple, fast and convenient.

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\*Email addresses are confidential and will not be shared. See [yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://yankeecandlefundraising.com) for details.



Looking for information? Check [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) for links to school and PTO forms, events, fundraisers, Tiger Topics, lunch menus and the digital backpack (online copies of the school-wide notices that come home with your child each week).

Please check us out and “LIKE US” on Facebook!



## Mark Your Calendars

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**May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>: TV Turn Off Week**

**My 9<sup>th</sup> – Emerson-Williams Talent Show, 7:00-9:00 PM at SDMS**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Emerson-Williams Art Show – 6:30–8:00 PM**

**June 14<sup>th</sup> – EW Annual Strawberry Festival – 10:00 AM–2:00 PM**

## Box Tops for Education

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Box Tops for Education has helped America’s schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops also offers online ways to earn even more cash for Emerson-Williams.

Check out [www.btfе.com](http://www.btfе.com) for a list of participating products, as well as online earning opportunities.

### Advice

from EW teachers to our students on how to have a successful school year:

**Show up on time, and be prepared.**

**Play outdoors!**

**Keep a positive attitude.**

**Be kind to everyone.**

*Look for more advice in future issues of Tiger Topics!*

### Board of Education

You can find information about the Board of Education’s members, policies, minutes and schedule for upcoming meetings by visiting their website:

<http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=1643>



**FroyoWorld and  
Wethersfield High School  
are fundraising for  
Wethersfield High School**

**Safe Graduation 2014!!**



Come to FroyoWorld on: **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Stop by Froyo on the Silas Deane Highway on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of each month through June and 10% of your purchase is donated to WHS Safe Graduation! Please bring this flyer with you for offer.

# Attention United Way Donors!

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If you donate to the United Way through your workplace, did you know that you can designate Emerson-Williams PTO as the beneficiary of your donation? If you have any questions or need help, please contact John Kiniry for more information.



## Volunteer

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**If you are interested in heading up one of our PTO committees OR simply want to join a committee to find a way to get involved, please contact John Kiniry or Paul LaPerriere as soon as possible. At the November PTO meeting, we will be assessing the committees that do not have chairs in order to determine if those activities/events will be eliminated. It's so important that we hear from you to make sure the events that your kids love continue to take place. Please go to [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) and check out the committee list to see if anything matches your interests.**

## Babysitters Needed

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Calling all E-W families that have High Schoolers: If your students need to pick up some community service time, we have an opportunity for them! Every month we need three babysitters for our PTO meetings. Responsibilities include monitoring school aged children during the meeting and ensuring that the classroom that is used gets left exactly as we found it! To get put on the schedule, please contact John Kiniry at [jtk038@aol.com](mailto:jtk038@aol.com) or 860-424-2143.

# Classified

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The Emerson-Williams PTO is looking for a parent (or friend of the family) that has a carpet/upholstery cleaning business. Physical education mats used by EW students are in need of cleaning. Any assistance in identifying someone that can help would be appreciated.

Please contact Paul LaPerriere - [plaperriere.pto@gmail.com](mailto:plaperriere.pto@gmail.com)

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The Emerson-Williams PTO is looking for a parent (or friend of the family) that has experience with web-hosting to help administer changes to the PTO website.

Please contact Paul LaPerriere - [plaperriere.pto@gmail.com](mailto:plaperriere.pto@gmail.com)

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*Your advertisement here...*

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*Your advertisement here...*

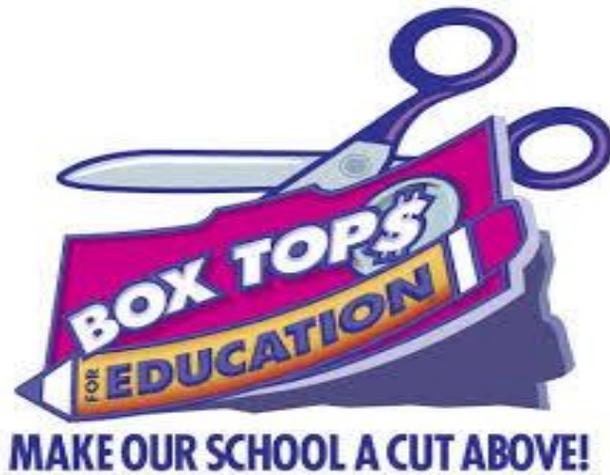
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*Your advertisement here...*

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*Your advertisement here...*

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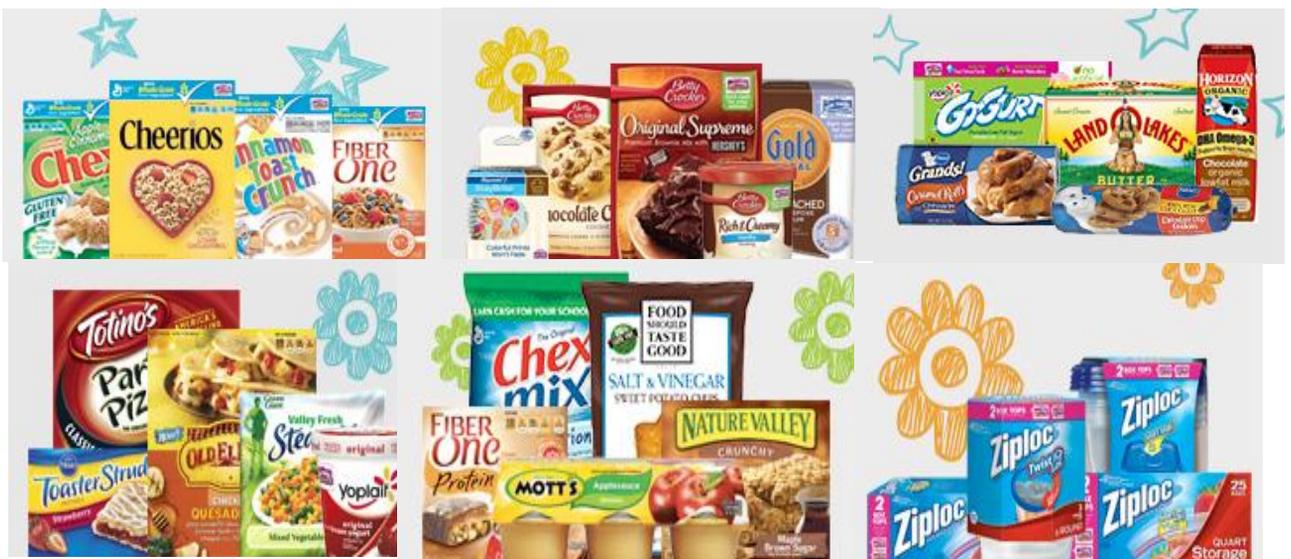
## Help Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops!

We all shop for groceries, sometimes two or three times a week - or more. Now turn those shopping trips into easy cash for our school, and encourage friends to do the same! Just look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products like Cheerios®, Hamburger Helper® and Kleenex®, in almost every aisle of the store. All you need to do is clip and send them to school with your child.

## Each one is worth 10¢ for Emerson-Williams!

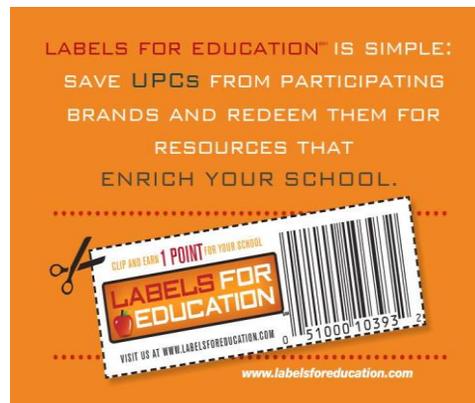
For more details about the Box Tops program, follow the link below.

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>





Clip Labels for Education from Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Pop Secret, People Magazine (purchased at newsstands), Emerald Nuts, Glad products, Post Cereals, Dannon Danimals, Dannoninos, and Bic products.



***If you cannot find the logo, simply clip the UPC code.***

Visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for a list of participating products.

# EMERSON~WILLIAMS 2013-2014 PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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Please support the Emerson-Williams PTO by donating \$7.00 per child or \$10.00 per family. All parents and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly PTO meetings to share their thoughts and ideas. Many topics are discussed, including up-coming events and concerns. Becoming a member does not obligate you to attend monthly meetings, but you are always welcome to come listen and share your ideas.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Our Success cannot continue without your support!  
Thank you for your anticipated support of our PTO!

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Please return the form below to your child's teacher. Checks can be made payable to:

EMERSON~WILLIAMS PTO  
Child(ren) Name (s)

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Grade(s)

---

Teacher(s)

---

Parent/Guardian Name

---

Child \$7.00

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Family \$10.00

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Additional/Other  
Donation\_\_\_\_\_

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# Thanks to Our Sponsors

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