



From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

It's getting close to that time of year where our students will be taking their state standardized tests. Our Grade Five students will be taking the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) in the area of Science on Thursday, March 12. Last year, our Emerson-Williams fifth graders scored the highest in the district. I'm confident that our students will perform well this year as well! Then, starting on April 7, and running throughout the month of April, our students in Grades Three through Six will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) tests in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Math. (Eventually, Science will be a part of this test as well, but it has not yet been created.) Overall, we are in a much better place for this testing this year compared to last year. Our students have been receiving the typing training, and they have gotten a lot better with their keyboarding skills. In addition, we have 30 Chromebooks per grade level in Grades Three through Six, so students have had much more practice on these devices and this has strengthened their typing skills as well. Last year, with our testing schedule, we had one class of students use the computer lab computers, while five classes of students used the iPads at any one given time. This year, we will still have one class of students who will use the computer lab computers, but the other five classes will use the Chromebooks instead of the iPads. The Chromebooks will work out much better than the iPads, so we are excited about this. As classroom instruction continues to be more and more aligned with the Common Core State Standards, students are better prepared to take the SBAC. One feature of the SBAC that was not piloted with Wethersfield students last year is the adaptability feature of the short answer questions. With the adaptability feature, students will be sent to either less challenging or more challenging questions (still within their grade level) depending on whether they answer questions correctly or incorrectly. This will be a feature of the SBAC testing this year, so we are interested to see how this works. While last year's SBAC testing was called a Pilot, this year's SBAC testing is not. We are eager to see how student scores will be reported to us (as last year they were not reported to us at all), and how these scores will help guide our instruction for the 2015 - 2016 school year.

In This Issue

From the principal's desk	1	Letter from the Presidents	2	Special Notices	3
Butter Braids!	4	Keen Foundation Grant Program	5	Webb School Vendor Fair	6
Your Calendars	7	Holiday Store Update	8	Labels for Education	9
Classified	10	BOX TOPS	11	HARTFORD WOLF PACK	14

Message from the Presidents....

Hello Emerson-Williams Families!

Hoping all of you are staying warm through this incredibly brutal February month! A couple of important announcements are listed below:

- TV Turn Off Week is scheduled for April 12th through 17th. Various events are in the works, but we still need volunteers to chair a few events that week. Please contact Jackie LaPerriere if you can help out and chair one of the events.
- The Keane Foundation is offering money, in the form of a grant, to the schools in town. The amount of money in the grant is not being shared, but we have been told to not let that stop us from putting something together. More information is in Tiger Topics related to this, so please take a look.
- Strawberry Festival is still un-chaired at this point. We are looking for a few good people to step up and chair this event. This event is a big budget item and one that the kids look forward to every year. If no one is able to come forward to chair the event, we will have to cancel the Strawberry Festival for this year. Please contact Nathalie or myself if you are willing to take a stab at it. There are volunteers willing to assist and provide helpful information, we just need someone to chair it.

Thanks everyone, and hope to see you at the next PTO meeting on March 12th, at 7:00pm.

Paul LaPerriere - 2nd Year Co-President
Nathalie Trevitazzo - 1st Year Co-President

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

2015 PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00pm Upper Media Center

March 12 • April 9 • May 14 • June 11

www.ewpto.com

Special Notices

BOX TOPS! Please remember to clip Box Tops and ask your friends, family and neighbors to do the same! Throwing away Box Tops is like throwing away much-needed money for your child's school. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents! It's really a dime in disguise! So far this year, we have raised almost \$1000 for EW simply by clipping Box Tops. The more people who clip, the more money will earn for our school.

Please direct any questions to Kristen Healy (kjhealy01@yahoo.com) or Sharon Koziol (skoziol2011@hotmail.com).

Suggestion Box: The EWPTO website has now incorporated a suggestion box as well as an email address that parents can use EXCLUSIVELY to make suggestions about potential fundraisers or special events that they'd like their children to experience. We need NEW and fresh ideas of ways to raise funds for our programs as well as bring our families together for fun activities. Please take a moment and review the website or email us with your thoughts. We really appreciate it! Also, please bear in mind that this is made available for suggestions about NEW events and not to exchange ideas or recommend changes to existing fundraisers/activities. If you'd like to lend a hand with current events, please join us at our next PTO meeting! Thank you all so much.

<http://www.ewpto.com/suggestionbox.html>
SuggestionBox@ewpto.com

From the Music Department: Our instrumental music teacher, Ms. Emily Caravella, has developed a website for parents to use in order to get updates on their child's instrumental activities. To view the website, please go to www.emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com. Parents of children not currently in this music program can find information and are welcome to reach out to Ms. Caravella at any time.



Start saving room in your freezer.....

Our Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser is right around the corner.

Orders will take place February 10- February 27.

Delivery will be March 16, just in time for you to enjoy during spring break, Easter, Mothers Day & Fathers Day! Money Raised will go to the EWPTO General Fund.

Thank you for your support.



Any questions about the Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser please contact Janet Carbo at (860) 970-4490 or Janetcarbo@yahoo.com

Keane Foundation Grant Program

The Keane Foundation has grant money available for school PTOs. As long as the grant requests benefit our children, they will review and potentially grant our requests.

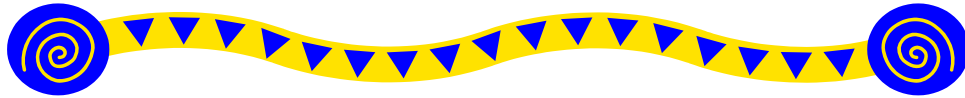
Currently, we are seeking ideas, to be submitted to the Emerson-Williams PTO for grant opportunities. We would ask that if you have a suggestion, to please submit them through our PTO website using the "Suggestion" box. Please be aware, the Keane Foundation's mission statement is:

"Support, sustain, and develop programs for the community that will offer sports, fitness, educational, and recreational programs."

Keep this in mind when brainstorming ideas. Over the next few weeks, we will gather the ideas and form a committee to make some decisions on what would be the best fit for our school/kids. The first submission is due by March 31st, so please get your suggestions in quickly. If you submit a suggestion...please make sure you leave contact information so that if we have any questions on the idea, we know who to contact.

Is there an enrichment program you have always wanted to have available at Webb? This is your opportunity to make it happen. More information is available at: <http://www.keanefoundation.org>

Grant requests from each of the schools will be submitted by March 31st. The second opportunity to submit a request will be in September/October of 2015.



Webb Elementary School Vendor Fair

Looking for Vendors to participate in a PTO Fundraiser
for Webb Elementary School

When: Thursday, March 12, 2015

Times: Vendor set up between 5pm – 6pm
Open to Public from 6pm – 8pm
Vendor clean-up between 8pm – 9pm

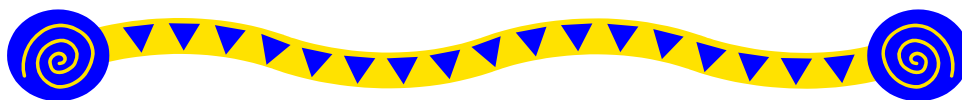
Where: Webb Elementary School Cafeteria

Vendor cost: \$20 per table plus a \$25 raffle item
Raffle tickets will be sold at the door

All proceeds will go to the Webb Elementary School
PTO

Please contact Jackie Hillman to sign up to be a Vendor
by: February 25th, 2015.

Jackie Hillman at: 860-878-8578 or jhillman6@cox.net



www.ewpto.com

Looking for information? Check 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!

- March 20th – Mismatch Day

Box Tops for Education

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 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>

Target: Help Us Help Our School

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 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. 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.

Donate Your Unused Coupons

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 CABE 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.

Holiday Store

The holidays over, but we still need help! The holiday store needs wrapping paper every year! Please take this opportunity to donate any unused wrapping paper from this past holiday. You can bring any unused wrappings to the main office to be brought to the PTO closet. Thank you all for making this event such a success!

Holiday Store Co-Chairs:

Janet Carbo and Karen Dicenso



Attention United Way Donors!

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 Paul LaPerriere for more information.



Volunteer

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 Paul LaPerriere or Nathalie Trevitazzo 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 and check out the committee list to see if anything matches your interests.

Babysitters Needed

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 Paul LaPerriere at plaperriere.pto@gmail.com or 860-538-3698.

Labels for Education

Labels for Education allows our school to earn free merchandise such as athletic, art, music and academic equipment. Just clip and save Labels for Education bar codes from products you use every day, then drop them in the Labels for Education box outside the main office. Labels for Education products include Post, Pepperidge Farm, Campbell's, Dannon, Emerald, Pop Secret and Glad. Check out Labelsforeducation.com for a comprehensive list of participating products. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koziol (skoziol2011@hotmail.com or 860-529-3562).

Classified

Your advertisement here...

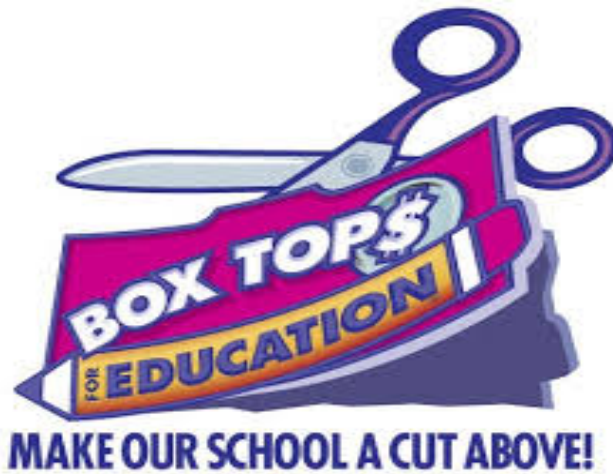
Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...



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!

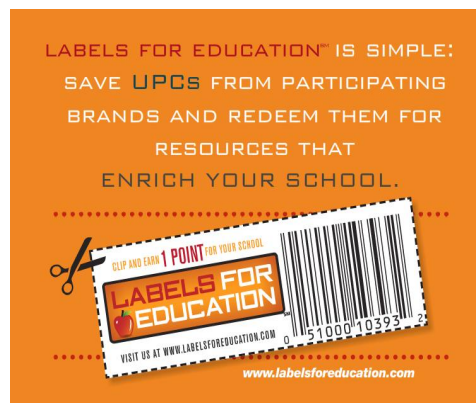
For more details about the Box Tops program, follow the link below.

<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 for a list of participating products.

EMERSON~WILLIAMS 2014-2015 PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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!

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

EMERSON~WILLIAMS PTO

Child(ren) Name (s)

Grade(s)

Teacher(s)

Parent/Guardian Name

Child \$7.00

Family \$10.00

Additional/Other
Donation _____

THIS HARTFORD IS HOCKEY



Friday, April 17th at 7:00 PM
Emerson-Williams PTO Night at the Wolf Pack

BOTH EW BAND & EW CHOIR PERFORM

During the Hartford Wolf Pack game



VS



TICKETS ARE ONLY \$10!

Name: _____ Event: Hartford Wolf Pack vs. Bridgeport Sound Tigers
Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

of tickets X \$ 10 = Total \$ _____

Payment method CHECK or CASH

Make checks payable to: Emerson Williams PTO