



From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

Happy New Year, everyone! Two thousand fourteen started off a little bit rocky with a couple of days of snow to welcome us all home. Now, we are back to our rigorous educational routine, and it feels very good! Your children seem happy to be back. We missed them! They are well rested, and are working hard in their classrooms. They have already come a long way since September.

On **Friday, January 24**, I will be hosting a Principal's Breakfast. This Breakfast will be held from **9:00 am – 10:00 am in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams**. This will be an informal gathering, designed to help parents understand a little bit more about what's happening at Emerson-Williams. There will be a couple of specific agenda items – math instruction and SBAC testing – as well as some guest speakers. There will also be time for some open discussion / questions. A light breakfast will be served, so come hungry! Please let the office know if you plan on attending, so that we can plan accordingly. I hope to see you there!

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Message from the Presidents....

Hello Emerson-Williams Families!

We hope you all had a safe and festive holiday season, and are ready to join us for a fun and exciting second half of the school year. You will find additional details on some of the following notices in this month's Tiger Topics, but felt we should emphasize them here.

Wolf Pack night will be happening on Feb 1st at 7:00pm. Purchasing a ticket will allow you to get in to see the game as well as afford you and your family other benefits. This event is NOT a fund-raiser. We are calling it a "Fun"-Raiser! Our goal with a "Fun" raiser is to provide families with the opportunity to attend "FUN" events as inexpensively as possible. We understand that finding reasonably priced ways of entertaining our families can be challenging. It is our commitment to the Emerson-Williams community to continue searching for or creating as many events as possible for our families to enjoy for as little cost as possible. We want to develop a family atmosphere within the school walls, along with our PTO. Tickets are still available, and we hope that this event will provide a night of "fun" for all.

We also hope that our communication to all of you has improved, as we are utilizing Facebook and general email as a way to get reminders and important messages to those families that provided their email addresses for the School Directory. We are doing everything we can to reach as many of you as possible, and hope it is working. If by chance you are not receiving these emails and would like to start receiving them, please provide me with your email address and I can add you to my master list. You can forward it to me at plaperriere.pto@gmail.com. Also, if you have additional suggestions, please let me know as well.

Sincerely,

Paul LaPerriere, 1st Year Co-President

John Kiniry, 2nd Year Co-President

"We never know the love of parents until we become parents ourselves!"

2013-2014 PTO Meeting Schedule
February 13 • March 13 • April 10 • May 8 • June 12

7:00pm Upper Media Center

SBAC Testing Notice

Greetings Emerson Williams families!

The team at Emerson Williams has been working diligently to prepare all students for the roll out of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), the new state standardized measure being utilized this spring across the district. Students will be taking the SBAC for reading, writing and mathematics (in grades 3-6) and will continue to also take the CMT Science Assessment in grade 5. There are many new pieces that are worthy of discussion, the focus of today's blog is to summarize changes with accommodations.

Perhaps one of the most important new pieces to note is that the SBAC includes guidelines for accommodations that are "Universally Embedded" and available to all students. Some examples of these include: taking breaks, extended time, use of a calculator when appropriate, use of scratch paper and spell check. In the past some of these accommodations have only been available to 504 and special education students under the old CMT assessment tool.

In addition to Universal Tools all students have access to "Designated Supports." These accommodations do require paperwork completion as they are determined on an individual basis. Some examples of Designated Supports include: color contrast, masking, and text-to-speech. It is important to note that these accommodations are available based on team discussion of student need and will be based on data that indicates that the student has already been using this accommodation and that it is in fact appropriate.

It may seem like a great idea to allow a student to use an accommodation that seems like it would be helpful, however if a student has never tried out this "tool" it could actually inhibit their success. I love to use the analogy that a figure skater never skates in new skates the day of competition; they skate in the skates they have been practicing in. Similarly, the team will recommend accommodations that students have already been using with success. Finally, students with 504 plans and those identified as special education students, may be eligible for "Documented Accommodations." These are also determined by the team, paperwork is necessary and the accommodations and recommendations will need to be documented in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan. Examples of Documented Accommodations include: closed captioning, Braille and American Sign Language. As with all other accommodations these will be recommended by the team if the team has data that provides evidence that this is an accommodation that the student has been using throughout the year and that it is appropriate. If you are the parent of a special education student, you will be receiving a phone call from your student's case manager in order to amend the current IEP to reflect the most recent recommendations. We know that this is all new and we are here to help as we all adjust to new language, terminology and procedures. Please do not hesitate to contact your school team if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to all of you, Happy New Year!

Emily C. Daigle, Director of Special Services, Wethersfield Public Schools.

Health Tips

From Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

•DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS,

•**REMINDER FOR ALL SIX GRADE STUDENTS:**

•You have recently received a reminder memo regarding your child's 11 year physical. If your child has had a physical in 2013, have the doctor fill out the blue health form for that visit. If not, make an appointment as soon as possible. I may be forced to withhold the transfer of progress reports and health records to Silas Deane Middle School if a physical is not received. All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations **PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2014.** Any questions please don't hesitate to call me.

FIVE-TWO-ONE-ALMOST NONE

•5-2-1-Almost None is one way to promote a healthier lifestyle for children and their families. It is as simple as following these suggestions and tips for healthier eating and physical activity.

•5 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES - 5 stands for five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Fruits and vegetables are packed with disease-fighting nutrients and give you energy, naturally.

•Serve at least one fruit or vegetable at every meal and snack.

•Dip veggies in low fat dressing. Tuck them in whole wheat pitas. Toss some on your pizza.

•Try and Try again. It may take several tests (10 or more) before they begin to enjoy.

•2 HOURS OF SCREEN TIME- 2 stands for no more than two hours per day in front of a screen (TV, video games and recreational computer time). A number of studies show a correlation between watching television and obesity.

•Be a role model - limit your screen time. Play or take a walk with your kids.

•Keep TV in a central location and out of your child's bedroom.

•Turn off the TV during dinner and talk about your day

•1 HOUR OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - 1 means at least one hour of physical activity per day. Physical activity, especially when it gets the heart pumping faster, is vital to maintaining a healthy weight and overall good health.

•Kids who are raised in active families tend to stay active as adults.

•Plan one physical activity for the family each weekend. Let each child take turns choosing the activity.

•Walking, bicycling, dancing and raking leaves can all get your heart pumping.

•10 minutes here, 10 minutes there and before you know it, you've been moving your body for an hour.

•ALMOST NONE refers to almost no sugary beverages - no more than two servings per week of soft drinks, sport drinks, and fruit drinks that are not 100% fruit juice. Over the last few decades, soda consumption has doubled for girls and tripled for boys.

•Choose water. Add a lemon or lime wedge or a splash of juice for flavor.

•Drink water, milk and juice yourself. Your children will learn by watching you.

•Avoid bringing sodas and sports drinks home. If it's there the kids will drink it

•Adapted from www.GrowUpHealthy.org

Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Start saving room in your freezer because the Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser is right around the corner. Orders will be taken between Feb, 10th and February 28th. Money raised will go into the EW PTO general fund. Thanks for your support.



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.

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!

- Friday, January 24 – Principal’s Breakfast – 9:00 am – 10:00 am
- Thursday, January 30 – Grade Five DARE Graduation – 6:30 pm
- Saturday February 1st – Emerson-Williams Night at the Wolfpack – 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 2 – Grade Five and Grade Six Parent Information Night for The Discovery Center / Camp Woodstock Field Trip – 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 22 – Friday, April 25 – Grade Six to Camp Woodstock
- Monday, April 28 – Friday, May 2 – Grade Five to Camp Woodstock

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.btfe.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 – Wrap Up!

Although the holidays just ended, it's a great time to remember that the holiday store needs wrapping paper every year! Please take this opportunity to donate any unused wrapping paper from this past holiday season. Thank you all for making this event such a success! We all appreciate it!

Holiday Store Co-Chairs:

Lauren Barbara
snl0617@att.net
860-665-9448

Amber Kiniry
amberstark76@aol.com
860-424-2144



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 John Kiniry 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 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 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 John Kiniry at jtk038@aol.com or 860-424-2143.

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

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

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...



WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SAFE GRADUATION 2014



Executive Chairperson:

Michele Lavoie, 257-8030, dancewme430@cox.net

Fundraising Co-Chairs:

Sheryl Matarazzo, 257-3188, ssmatarazzo@sbcglobal.net

Marguerite Alpert, 563-1093, margalpert@snet.net

*Wethersfield Safe Graduation is a wonderful, safe, fun and **free** event for every graduating senior.*

It takes many helping hands to make this event happen.

If you are a parent of a senior, please consider joining a committee!

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Join us for one of our fun monthly meetings! We meet the first Monday of every month, at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room at the Pitkin Community Center. We welcome your help, support and ideas!

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

All events are posted on the Safe Graduation link on the WHS website. Please check often for updates on new events.

STERLING JEWELERS STACKABLE RINGS

Together with Sterling Jewelers we have created a beautiful collection of 5 different stackable rings as our newest fundraiser. Prices range from \$22-\$47. You will have the opportunity to look through the catalogue for other choices. You may visit Sterling Jeweler any time to place your order. 50% of all sales will be given to Safe Graduation! These rings make a great gift! Contact **Linda Sidote**, 860-529-8386 or linsid@cox.net or **Kim Brazel**, 860-202-8012 or alphakimb@aol.com with questions.



FITNESS FAIR - MARCH 2, 2014, 2-4 pm

Kick off your spring in a healthy and vibrant way! Relax with yoga, invigorate with boxing, dance with Zumba, try out Cross fit... visit all of our health conscious vendors, chair massages and get the latest nutrition information. We will be at Pitkin Community Center for this fitness filled afternoon. For more information call: **Marguerite Alpert @ (860)563-1096.**

CLOTHES DRIVE- APRIL 5, 2014

SPRING CLEANING?? Bring all of your out-grown, used clothing, shoes, coats, belts, linens, bedding, towels, blankets, stuffed animals and hard plastic toys (playschool desks, houses, trucks and toy boxes). Drop off is at Silas Deane Middle School, Front driveway on Silas Deane Hwy. from 10am-2pm. **We get paid by the pound, so bring it all!!** Questions, contact **Sheryl Matarazzo at (860)257-3188** or ssmatarazzo@sbcglobal.net.

RESTAURANTS

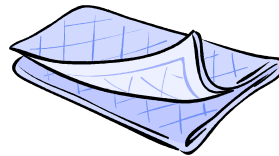
Keep an eye on our website (www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us) for upcoming dates for dinner out at local restaurants. Join us at Wood-n Tap, Friday's, Froyo World, Chili's and other local restaurants throughout the school year. Print a copy of the flyer from the website and 10% of proceeds of your dinner will go directly to Safe Grad. For more information contact **Diane Dow at (860)436-9262** or dowconn@cox.net.

DANCE

Get ready to ring in spring and join your friends and neighbors for one of the best Wethersfield events of the year! ****Mark your calendars now!**** On **Saturday, March 22, 2014, 7-11pm**, music and laughter will fill the Pitkin Community Center. BYO Everything including your favorite appetizers and beverages for our special fundraising dance. The Live and silent auctions are a hit with this event! Tickets are \$25 per person. Reserve your table for 8 now! For additional information contact **Lisa Stefano at 860-563-1227** or lstefano17@cox.net.

WHS SAFE GRADUATION 2014 CLOTHES DRIVE

SPRING CLEANING??? Any Winter clothing that you didn't wear? Do you have out-grown clothes? Maybe, it's time to clean out the clutter in your closets, attics, kids' rooms and the play area? Want to get rid of it all? Tell your friends and relatives too. Bring all your items to:



Saturday, April 5, 2014
SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL
(front driveway on Silas Deane Hwy)
Drop off: 10am-2pm

Or

Drop off items with Sheryl Matarazzo By April 1st
Items Accepted: All items must be in Garbage bags.

CLEAN men's/women's/children's Clothing, Shoes, Belts, Ties, Hats, Handbags, Bedding, Towels, Curtains, Blankets, Linens, Stuffed Animals, Hard Plastic Toys (children's play desk and toy boxes)

We get paid by the pound, so bring it all!

Questions? Contact Sheryl Matarazzo at (860) 257-3188 or ssmatarazzo@sbcglobal.net



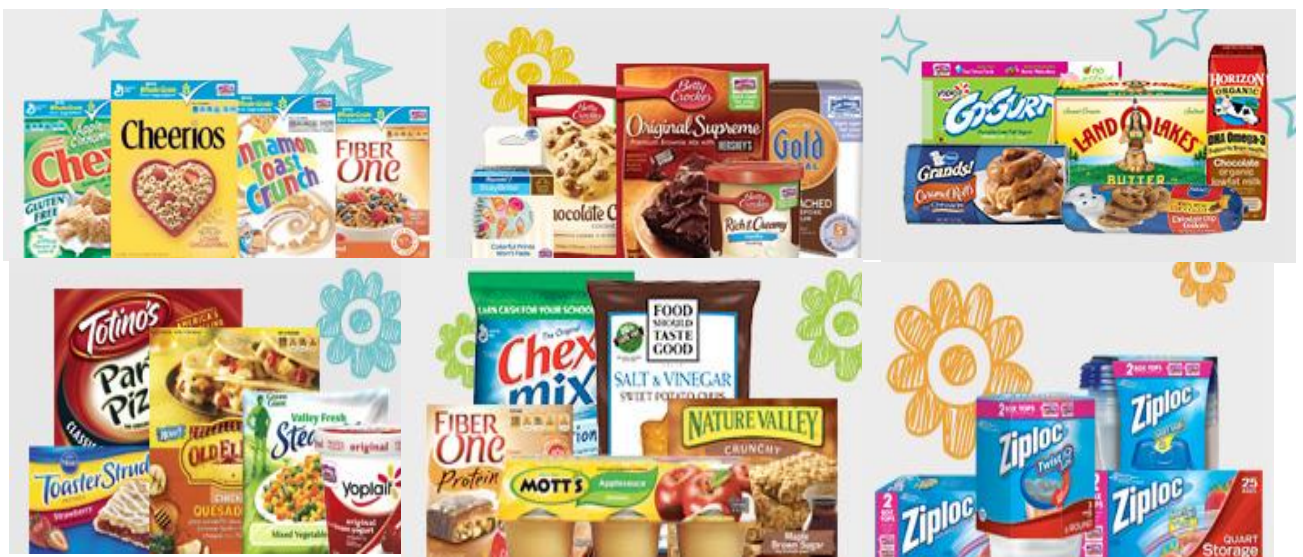
Help Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops!

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!

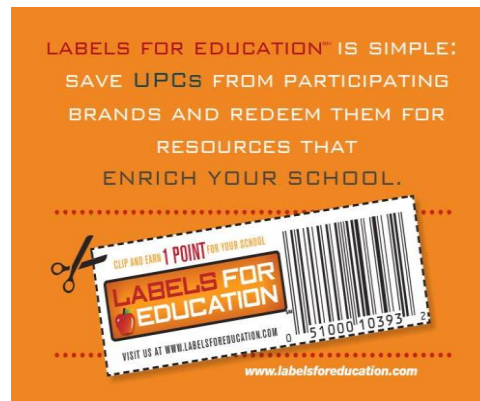
For more details about the Box Tops program, follow the link below.

<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.

Wethersfield Public Library Events

Computer Class 10:30 a.m. Wednesday January 15	Downloadable eBooks, Audiobooks & More! The 21st century library has much more than paper books! Learn about the free downloadable ebooks, audiobooks and videos now available with your Library card. This class will be presented in lecture format. Registration is suggested.
Friends of the Library 7:00 p.m. Tuesday January 14	The Friends of the Wethersfield Library will hold their January meeting at the Library. Members of the public are invited to attend.
Teen Program 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Thursday January 16	Teen Midterm Coffeehouse. Looking for a fun place to study for midterm exams with your friends? Wethersfield High School teens are invited to join a study group in the Community Room at the Wethersfield Library. Relaxing music will be played, and free pizza, hot cocoa, coffee, and cookies will be served to help motivate the brain. Come experience a café atmosphere in the library! Registration is not required.
Community Program 6:30 p.m. Tuesday January 21	Power Over Debt. Resolve to make 2014 the year you get your finances in order! Plan on attending 'Power Over Debt' led by Barbara Gunterman. Discussion topics include: secured versus unsecured debt and the difference between revolving and fixed debt. Barbara Gunterman is a Membership and Public Relations Officer at the Dutch Point Credit Union. Registration is suggested..
Teen Program 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23	Chewin' on Chapters. Seventh and eighth graders join us for a discussion of the Nutmeg Award nominee, "Divergent" by Veronica Roth. (Spoiler alert: You don't have to finish the book to attend, but please be aware that the ending will be revealed!) Join us for a few light refreshments, a lively chat, and a lot of fun! Registration is required.
Library Board 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28	All meetings of the Board are open to the public.





EMERSON WILLIAMS SCHOOL NIGHT
Saturday February 1st 2014 at 7:00pm!

Tickets are only \$10 for all!! Each child will receive a free scout patch as it is Scout sleepover night and Girl Scout night!! You are all invited to our Gymnastics event throughout the day! Just show your Wolf Pack ticket and you get in free to watch!! (Tournament starts at 8:00 a.m. and runs all day until start of the Wolf Pack game!)

Please contact Lauren Barbara to order!
Payments are due by January 22nd 2014
Any questions contact:

Lauren Barbara (860) 665-9448 or Email: snl0617@att.net

Name: _____ Event: Hartford Wolf Pack vs. Albany Devils

Email: _____

of tickets _____ X _____ = Total \$ _____ Payment Method: CHECK or CASH

*Please make checks payable to Emerson-Williams PTO

I can't wait to



You know that feeling when you just can't wait for tomorrow?

The feeling you get when you're with your friends and you're talking about all the fun things that could happen? We love that feeling! So let's do all the cool stuff you imagined—like exploring the outdoors, creating your own artistic masterpiece, or helping the community with new friends. We'll always be counting down to the next adventure—and the next one, and the next one—together.

Ready? Start the fun now at gsocfct.org/join.

I can't wait to
Be the one that
makes everybody
giggle
Be the star of
my own story
Be an explorer
on a real-life
adventure
Be a superhero
Be a Girl Scout

We're so excited you're excited!

Tell us more about yourself:

Name Grade

School

Your three favorite activities:

.....

How can we reach you?

Parent/Caregiver

Street

City State Zip Code

Email

(.....)
 Phone

Girl Scouting is a volunteer organization. May we contact you to discuss volunteering? (Training is available.) Yes

Thanks! We'll be in touch soon.



If you love science,
art, sports, or just telling stories,
you're ready for Girl Scouts.

At Girl Scouts, girls have new experiences that give them that super-excited, jumping, giggling, butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling. Experiences that get you so excited about your future that you can hardly wait.



A year with us will be filled with:

- new friends
- tons of fun
- and more "wow" moments than you've ever imagined.

We design activities to teach girls about themselves and their world. A year with us is filled with the kind of moments she just can't wait to tell everyone about.



Grade levels

- Kindergarten & Grade 1 Girl Scout Daisy
- Grades 2 & 3 Girl Scout Brownie
- Grades 4 & 5 Girl Scout Junior
- Grades 6, 7, & 8 Girl Scout Cadette
- Grades 9 & 10 Girl Scout Senior
- Grades 11 & 12 Girl Scout Ambassador

Membership Registration Cost

\$15.00 Annual Registration Fee plus
 \$10.00 Council Service Fee
 Registration aid is available for girls who need financial assistance.
 Do not send money or check with this form.

Learn more about all the fun that's waiting for you!

www.gsofct.org
 (800) 922-2770
 general@gsofct.org

Facebook.com/gsofct
 Twitter.com/gsofct
 Pinterest.com/gsofct
 Youtube.com/gsofct



EMERSON~WILLIAMS 2013-2014 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_____

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Rosenberg Orthodontics

People's United Bank

Future Fitness Sport Specific Training LLC

Leo's Pizza

Cedar Mountain Stone and Mulch

Preyco Manufacturing Co

Sterling Jewelers

AJ Vicino & Sons Nursery