

From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

Our Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing is right around the corner. This testing is for all students in grades 3 - 6. Grades 3 and 4 will be testing on April 7 - 10. Grades 5 and 6 will be testing on April 13 - 16. Make-up testing will take place during the week following this. Each day, students will have two testing sessions - one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each session is 45 minutes in length. It is expected that all students will use up all of the time during the morning session but, for the afternoon completion of the morning's subtest, students are expected to finish at various times. The SBAC is an untimed test. Students will have as much time as they need to complete each sub-test. SBAC assesses students in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. It is a computer-based assessment. Mrs. Harris's class and Mrs. Marks's class will be using the computer lab. All others students will be in their own classrooms, using the Chromebooks. With the addition of the the 30 Chromebooks per grade level (grades 3 - 6) this school year, our students' keyboarding skills have improved a lot, and this will make the SBAC testing easier for students this year. Last year's SBAC testing was a pilot test. This year, the testing is no longer a pilot. In August, we are expecting to receive school, district, and parent reports with individual student scores. It is unclear at this time exactly how the scores will be broken down and categorized. Portions of the English Language Arts and Math subtests are adaptive, which means questions will become easier or more challenging for individual students, based on whether they answer initial questions correctly or incorrectly. We did not pilot this feature last year here in Wethersfield, but some other towns across the country did. All of the various questions that are presented during the adaptive portion are still within the child's own grade level.

Sincerely, Neela Thakur, Princpal

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Message from the Presidents....

Hello Emerson-Williams Families!

Spring is in the air, finally...and lots is on the calendar over the next three months for the kids and your families. Most topics you will find in this months issue, but we will highlight a few:

- CMT's took place this past week, and SBAC testing will be coming up in the month of April.
- TV Turn Off Week begins week of April 12th another flyer will be coming home soon in the form of a calendar with the events planned for each day as we try to make it easier for you to identify what is happening.
- Hartford WolfPack night will be happening on Friday the 17th at 7:00pm at the XL Center. If you would like to sit next to a family that night, please be sure to indicate this on the form you return to the school with your check. This year, we have worked hard with the WolfPack management to bring more giveaways to the kids before and during the game. Don't miss out on this "Fun" raiser.
- The Talent Show will be happening on Saturday, April 18th.
- A special THANK YOU to Holly Dyjak for stepping up and volunteering to Chair the Strawberry Festival this year. We are *actively seeking volunteers* to "sub" chair committees within the Festival to help Holly out. Please contact Holly if interested.
- Finally, our nomination committee of Leslie Williams and Paula Heinzmann are actively searching for individuals to join the board next year. The vacant positions will be 1st Year Co-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested, but want to know what each position entails, please reach out to Leslie or Paula for more information!

Please keep checking the PTO website, Facebook page, as well as your email for potential reminders for TV Turn Off Week, as well as important announcements. We thank each of you for your continued support of the PTO, and the things we do for the children of Emerson-Williams.

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

"Children learn more from what you ARE, than what you teach!"

2015 PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00pm Upper Media Center

April 9 • May 14 • June 11

Special Notices

BOX TOPS! Congratulations to Mrs. Moore's class for winning the Box Tops collection contest with 821 Box Tops! Way to go! Mrs. Harris' class came in second place with 642, followed by Mrs. Cookson's class with 376! Outstanding! EW earned \$598.20 in just this one collection period! With this submission, EW's Box Tops total is \$1600! This is the most money EW has ever earned! Please continue to collect and save your Box Tops. We will do one more submission in early June! Remember, Box Tops are dimes and disguise. They add up quickly and are free money for our school!

Wethersfield Schools Parent Council

Parents: please take the time to go to the WSPC website at <u>www.wspc-ct.org</u> for important information about our schools.

<u>Suggestion Box</u>: 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

Caravella at any time.

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.



Special Notices continued....

Labels for Education The Labels for Education program is currently running two bonus programs that can benefit EW by awarding EW Scholastic Books for the Library as well as much-needed athletic, art, music and academic equipment. Just clip and save Labels for Education bar/UPC codes from products you use every day, then drop them in the Labels for Education box outside the main office by March 27, 2015. Labels for Education products include Post Cereals, Dannimals Yogurt, Pepperidge Farm, Campbell's, Emerald, Pop Secret and Glad. Check out Labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of participating products. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koziol (skoziol2011@hotmail.comor 860-529-3562).

<u>WSPC Volunteer of the Year Award:</u> The Wethersfield Schools Parent Council, WSPC, is a town wide parent group that works to improve Wethersfield Public Schools through communication, coordination and advocacy.

WSPC parent volunteers include two or more representatives from each school who meet regularly for the benefit of all Wethersfield students.

Each year, WSCP honors one individual from each school who has made valuable contributions to the Wethersfield Public Schools. Past winners include PTO presidents and other people who have volunteered their time for the benefit of EW and all of Wethersfields' schools.

The Goals of the Wethersfield Schools Parent Council:

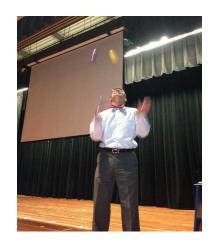
To unify and strengthen local parent teacher groups by facilitating the exchange of information and to encourage working together to achieve common goals.

To develop among parents, educators, town government and the Wethersfield community, a united effort to secure for all children and youth, the greatest opportunities in physical, mental and social education.

To coordinate advocacy on appropriate issues that affect the quality of education and well being of children in the town of Wethersfield.

Please nominate the person(s) that you believe are most deserving of the WSCP Volunteer of the Year from EW by completing the simple Volunteer Nomination form (available at this month's PTO meeting or by contacting Sharon Koziol (wspc.committee@ewpto.com). The nominee will be honored at an award's ceremony in May along with the nominees from the Town's other schools.

This Fall did your kids LOVE Feats of Memory or The Sciencetellers?





Every year entertaining and educational shows like these are brought to our schools by

The Wethersfield Creative Arts Council

Help us to continue to fund these programs with your family donation!

(suggested donation of \$5-\$7 per child)

*Checks payable to Wethersfield Creative Arts Council

Return your envelope to school by **March 20**th with any donation amount and your contact information to be entered into a raffle for great prizes from these sponsors:

Carbone's
Live Right Wellness
CT Cabaret Theater
Panera Bread
River Rock Yoga
The Cove Deli
Jewelry by Kathy Haggerty

Newington Children's Theater The New Britain Rock Cats Woodside Therapeutic Massage Newington Mainstage Theater Village Pizza Wood 'n Tap



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.

Poetry Month--April 2015 Emerson-Williams School

We love to celebrate National Poetry Month at Emerson-Williams School! Our tradition is to place our Poetry Mailbox near the office and invite students to fill the mailbox with their original poems. Then, the students' poems are mounted and hung for all to see.

Every other year, in May—just following Poetry Month—we also host an afternoon or evening of poetry, in which students are invited to recite their poem(s) before an audience. While we held our Afternoon of Poetry event last year, there have been requests to offer this event again this year.

So...help is needed, both during Poetry Month and for our Afternoon of Poetry.

Items Needed:

Construction Paper on which to mount our poet's poems! School Specialty:

1 pack: Item #9-090206-030 (12" x 18", 150-pack) @ \$13.05

Note: I believe S & H is free for orders from WPS

Potted flowering plants: 6 or 7 of them (approx. \$8. to \$10. Each?) to serve as decorations for the stage for our Afternoon of Poetry (Date in early to mid May TBD)

Volunteers Needed:

During the month of April, 1 or 2x/week: checking the Poetry Mailbox for new poems, copying students' poems, mounting them on construction paper, and hanging up the mounted poems for all to see.

Help with An afternoon of Poetry (Date in early to mid May, TBD):

- Coordinating refreshments (enlisting volunteers to provide refreshments and paper products, and setting them up for the event) for...probably 40 or 50 poets and their families. A bouquet of flowers for the refreshment table, too
- Setting up the stage: at 2:45 (5 or 6 chairs and a few props)

If you can help, please contact:

Brenda McLaughlin
Reading & Language Arts Consultant
bmclaughlin@wethersfield.me
Thank you!





What does the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative do for Wethersfield?

- •We **Spotlight issues** impacting young children, their families, and our community
- •We don't run a program or make a product We advocate for children age birth to eight
- •WECC CONNECTS advocates, parents, programs & services for young children
- •Funding from the State of Connecticut and our partners allow us to **track and take action** on issues that would otherwise be missed
- •OBJECTIVE: Identify areas of focus and get everyone working toward the mutual goal of making children in Wethersfield better off

Did You Know?

- •Birthrate: From 2005 to 2013, the state's birthrate <u>declined 15%.</u> In that same time period Wethersfield's Birthrate increased by 1.6%.
- •Prenatal Care: 1 out of every 3 expectant mothers in Wethersfield is not receiving adequate prenatal care. In 2011, non-Hispanic white woman make up 70% of this number.
- •Preschool Attendance: In 2006, 92.9% of children in Wethersfield attended preschool. In 2013, 78% of children in Wethersfield attended preschool.
- •Body Mass Index (BMI): 36.9% of Wethersfield's current 7th grade class is overweight or obese. 41.2% of boys in that group are overweight or obese

Data Drives the Work:

- •Created an **Early Childhood Resource Guide:** In a communitywide survey, Wethersfield residents repeatedly asked for one central place to find information on early childhood programs and services.
- •BMI Initiative: Cutting Edge Partnership with School Nurses
- •95210: Connecting YMCA with Wethersfield Schools to Fight Childhood Obesity
- •Improving Quality of Preschool: Professional Development for Preschool Teachers
- •Community Outreach to Bosnian, Albanian, and Hispanic Families

How You Can Help...

- •Find resources, events, and information at www.wethersfieldchildhood.org
- •Like us on Facebook
- •Sign up for our mailing list
- Join us for our monthly meetings
- •Volunteer to get involved!
- •Become a Community Partner!

www.ewpto.com

Looking for information? Check <u>www.ewpto.com</u> 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
March 25th-26th Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 12th-18th TV Turn-off Week!!!

April 12th Family Skate Night at Ron-A-Roll
May 6th Walk/Bike to School 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.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

The holidays over, but we still need help! he 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

EMERSON - WILLIAMS PTO Yankee Candle Fund-Raising Sale



YANKEE CANDLES®

Support the EMERSON - WILLIAMS PTO and buy quality, name-brand products that you already know and love.

Want to share our products with family and friends? Have them order online! Ask them to view our Spring 2015 Fundraising brochure on-line at:

www.yankeecandlefundraising.com

EMERSON-WILLIAMS PTO ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR ONLINE SHOPPING: 99718748

IMPORTANT DATES

Sale ends APRIL **6** 2015 Delivery MAY 1, 2015

MONEY COLLECTION

Payment is to be collected at the time of order. PLEASE DO NOT ADD SALES TAX.

Checks should be made payable to:

EMERSON - WILLIAMS PTO

IMPORTANT NOTES

- All orders and money must be returned NO LATER than APRIL (TH).
- Before you turn in your order packet, be sure that the order and amount of payment received agree.
- Seller, please keep the pink copy of the order form for reference at delivery. Return the yellow and white copies with your order packet.
- Please... keep the colored brochure as a reference when delivering orders to your customers.
- Be sure that the seller's name and EMERSON WILLIAMS PTO is printed at the top of your order form

This is a triplicate form, please print clearly and bear down.

- Smile, be polite and thank your customers for their support.
- Please, no door-to-door selling! Sales are encouraged only to parents, relatives, friends, neighbors and parents' co-workers.
- Please contact Darka Jara at 860-721-1621 with any questions.

Have a successful and fun Yankee Candle Fund-Raising Sale!



Spring Literacy Classes March 9, 2015 – May 1, 2015

EIDRA	
Monday April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2015	11:00am: MOTHER GOOSE TIME: Birth-21 months Stimulating lapsit program. Includes sharing board books, nursery rhymes & bouncing games. Parent participation is key! Registration is required
Monday April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2015	4:00pm: LEGO® JUNIOR MAKERS : 1st_ 3rd graders Books and LEGO® bricks come together in this fun, hands-on program that will spark children's creativity. Registration is required
Tuesday April 14, 2015	6:00pm: PROJECT: CREATE!: 3 rd - 6 th graders From LEGO® masterpieces to video game coding, join us and create something awesome! Registration is required
Tuesday April 21, 2015	6:30pm: PIZZA & PAGES: 4 th - 6 th graders Nutmeg Award Book Discussion Series with a light supper. April title: Saint Louis Armstrong Beach by Brenda Woods Registration is required
Wednesday April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2015	10:30am: BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS: 3-5 year olds This program is designed to help develop pre-reading skills and to enjoy theme based stories, fingerplays, songs & games. Registration is required
Thursday April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2015	10:30am: WEE READ: 22-35 months Exciting program where toddlers begin to appreciate longer stories & participate in group activities. Parent participation is key! Registration is required
Thursday April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2015	6:00pm: READY, SET READ, MATH, SCIENCE: 4-6 year olds Specially designed activities that make reading, math, and science come alive. Registration is required
Friday April 10, 17, & 24, 2015 Collection on	10am -12 noon: DROP-IN PLAYTIME + 10:45am: SHORT & SWEET STORYTIME: all ages Drop-in family fun with a story and a song. John John Saladin's monster truck collection
Display NOW SHOWING! (on flat screen @ Children's information desk)	Pictures from March 2015 Events
Themed book displays: (include booklists, coloring or activity sheets)	Let it Grow!: Gear up for spring with books about flowers and gardening. Read Alongs: Picturebook with audio CD kits to help your child read along while listening to the story. Super Heroes: Check out books about Batman, Spider-man, and many more. Princess Tales: Enchanting tales about princesses and royalty!
Word of the Month	Callithumpian Define the word and where it originated. All work must be completed in the library using library materials – no computers. If your answer is correct, you will be entered into a drawing to win a free large, plain pizza from Village Pizza.

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.

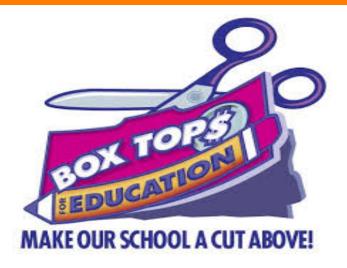
Babysitters Needed

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.comor 860-529-3562).

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Your advertisement here				
Your advertisement here				
Your advertisement here				
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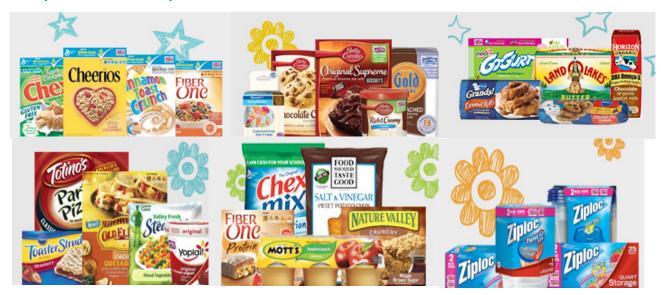


Help Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops!

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 <u>www.labelsforeducation.com</u> 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.

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





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 \$		Pav	ment metho	od CHECK	or	CASH	

Make checks payable to: Emerson Williams PTO