



From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

For this current 2014 - 2015 school year, one of our school-wide goals focuses on technology. This goal creation was a direct result of the Parent Survey that was conducted last Spring. Overall, our Emerson-Williams Parent Survey results were outstanding last year. However, in the area of technology, we could definitely use some improvement. There was one statement on the Survey that read, "I am satisfied with the technology and other resources at my child's school." We only had 79% of parents respond favorably to that particular question. For the Spring 2015 Parent Survey, we are hoping to raise that percentage to 85%. To that end, every single Emerson-Williams staff member has created a specific action plan to assist our school in achieving that overall school goal. Every teacher's personalized action plan includes three components:

- 1) Ways in which they will infuse more technology into their daily lesson plans.
- 2) Ways in which they will partake in professional development opportunities that will enhance their own comfort level with the technology they are utilizing in their classrooms.
- 3) Ways in which they will communicate with parents to explain how technology is being utilized in their classroom.

This school year, all of the elementary schools across the entire district received (and are continuing to receive) a lot of new technological devices that can be utilized by classroom teachers on a daily basis. This has been fantastic for us this year. Teachers and students have been enjoying these devices tremendously. While more professional development is still needed for my teachers, they have not been afraid to roll up their sleeves and just get started. Below, you will find a list of the new technological devices that have been provided to each grade level / department. I have also expanded my own administrative use of technology by setting up both a Twitter account as well as a Facebook page to communicate with parents. While I will be communicating all sorts of interesting Emerson-Williams happenings with parents via these social media sites, I will also be highlighting the various ways in which my teachers are utilizing the new technology with your children. I hope that you will follow me on Twitter at "emersontigers" and friend me on Facebook at Emerson Tigers. So many of you already have, and I am thrilled about this. Thank you for all of your feedback and suggestions!

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

Ms. Neela Thakur

Technology at Emerson-Williams Elementary School - 2014 - 2015

K: 5 iPads per teacher

In February, K will get 1 full iPad Cart

1: 1 full iPad Cart

2: 1 full iPad Cart

3: 1 full iPad Cart

4: 1 full iPad Cart

In December, Gr. 4 will get 1 full Chromebook Cart

5: 1 full Chromebook cart

6: 1 full Chromebook cart

Art, PE, Reading, ELL: Each of these departments has 5 iPads

Music: Will receive 5 iPads next week

Library: Will receive 1 full iPad Cart in December

(**1 full iPad Cart** = 30 iPads with charging station / keyboards)

(**1 full Chromebook Cart** = 30 Chromebooks with charging station)

Message from the Presidents....

Hello Emerson-Williams Families!

As the holidays approach, we all know that the children are looking forward to one of our biggest family events of the year – the Holiday Store! The committee has done a great job this year in preparing for this event, and now we need your support. Please consider donating 1 hour of your time at the Holiday Store this coming Thursday night. Without our army of volunteer we would not have our continued success with this event. Please go to the PTO website and follow the link to the Holiday Store signup sheet. Your children certainly appreciate it!

Vendor Night will be held in conjunction with the Holiday Store that evening. If you are waiting for your child while they are shopping in the Gym, please stop into the cafeteria and check out what the vendors have to offer.

The PTO is constantly reviewing new and effective ways to keep you informed of what is going on. Currently, the PTO is using email, Facebook, Tiger Topics, and our PTO webpage to send notices to families. Principal Thakur has also joined this effort by creating a Twitter and Facebook account. Our current email list will only go to those families who give us permission to enter their information into the 2014-2015 Directory. If you are not in the directory, but still want to be on our email list, please send an email to Nathalie Trevitazzo (ntrevitazzo@yahoo.com) or Paul LaPerriere (plaperriere.pto@gmail.com) so we can add you.

As some of you know, the EW Gym is need of a full overhaul. Martin Malicki has been working tirelessly for more than a year to get the Board of Education, as well as the Town Council, to recognize that the floor needs immediate attention. You will find a write up in next months Tiger Topics that highlights the facts of the situation. Please help us make sure that the Board and Town hear our community's request to repair our school. We will be sending out information to families in the coming weeks to help organize our community.

There will be no December PTO meeting due to the holiday season. Our next PTO meeting will be January 8th, 2015. We hope that you have a very Happy Thanksgiving and wonderful holiday season!

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

*“Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity,
they think of you.”*

2015 PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00pm Upper Media Center

January 8 • February 12 • March 12 • April 9 • May 14 • June 11

www.ewpto.com



EMERSON WILLIAMS
VENDOR NIGHT & HOLIDAY STORE



Artisan Olive
Oils

Date: Thursday, November 20th
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: 461 Welles Road, Wethersfield, CT
Holiday Store: Gymnasium
Vendor Fair: Cafeteria

Special Notices

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.



From the Emerson-Williams School Nurse

Tiger Topics Health Tips

by Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

DEAR PARENTS and CHILDREN,
Welcome back to all!

REMINDER to all sixth grade parents/students:

All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to **JUNE 1, 2015**. ***If you had a physical this summer, hand it in NOW. Students will not have their records transferred to the middle school if this is not complete.*** . If you need the State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment form, it can be found on the PTO website or I will be happy to send you one.

All children should be in school when they are well, but trying to decide if they are well enough can be a difficult task. We all know they can wake up feeling one way and an hour later feel another way. The goal is to have your child in school, ready to learn; but prevent the transmission of illness to classmates and staff.

In light of the most recent news about Enterovirus D68, the same guidelines should apply for any of the viruses we have experienced in the past. This virus is spread like others; by coughing, sneezing and saliva. Symptoms may include, fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough and body aches. Those susceptible of getting sicker, are those children with asthma or a history of wheezing.

These are the ways to prevent the spread of germs: GOOD HANDWASHING, AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS, DO NOT HUG, KISS OR SHARE FOOD WITH SOMEONE WHO IS SICK AND COUGHING AND SNEEZING INTO A KLEENEX OR OUR ELBOW.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

- A child with a temp of 100 degrees or greater should not be in school.
- Students should be free of fever **for 24 hours**, without the aid of TYLENOL OR MOTRIN, before returning to school.
- If a child vomits; they must be free of symptoms for **24 hours**, before returning to school.
- Students with excessive secretions from coughing, sneezing, or runny nose should be kept home to prevent the transmission of illness to others.
- Students diagnosed with Strep throat, by a throat culture, must be on antibiotics for **24 hours** before returning to school.
- For headaches, stomachaches, and sore throats, the decision to send your child to school should be based on your child's ability to focus on his/her class work and learn.

Thank you for keeping our school community healthy.

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

From the Music Department

2014 2015 MUSIC PERFORMANCES

December

Tuesday the 2nd *[Day A]* School wide Winter Concert Rehearsal Assembly
Grades K to 6 9:30 [Dec 9 storm date]

Friday the 12th *[Day A]* Winter Concert

Grades K to 3 at 9:30AM

Grades 4 to 6 at 1:15 PM [Storm date for 9:30 and 1:15 **Dec. 19]**

Tuesday the 23rd *[Day D]* School Wide Assembly

January

TBD - FESTIVAL rehearsals start; date, times and locations TBD

February

TBD - 4th Grade Band and Orchestra Informances

March

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS Month

TBD - UA Principal's Breakfast

April

TBD - FESTIVAL performance [performances on 2 consecutive days]

Friday the 17th - 7:00PM Band, Orchestra and Chorus volunteers to
perform at WolfPack *[Day B]*

May

Thursday the 7th - School wide concert Assembly *[Day D]*

**Thursday the 21st - 7:00 PM Spring Concert: 5, 6 Chorus; Band,
Orchestra *[Day B]***

June

Tuesday the 2nd - 4th Grade Music Across America Presentation *[Day C]*

Friday the 12th - School Wide Flag Day Assembly *[Day A]*

Dates and times subject to change

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!

- Holiday Store & Vendor Night – **November 20th from 5:00 – 8:00 PM**
- Wethersfield Creative Arts Council Fundraiser – **Tuesday December 9th** at Puerto Vallarta, Newington (20% of all proceeds from lunch and dinner will go to support creative arts performances at our school!)

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 are right around the corner and we need your help! The holiday store needs wrapping paper every year! Please take this opportunity to donate any unused wrapping paper from last holiday season. Thank you all for making this event such a success! We all appreciate it!

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...



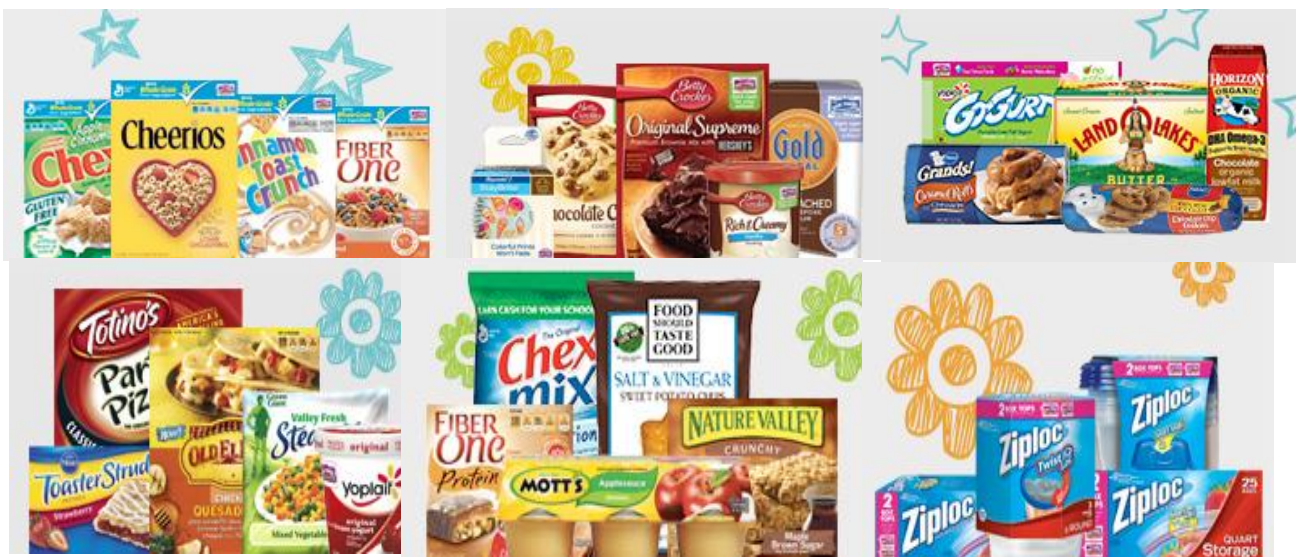
Help Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops!

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!

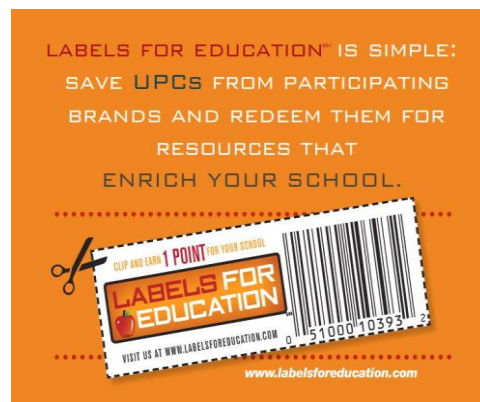
For more details about the Box Tops program, follow the link below.

<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 _____