



From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

The 2015 - 2016 school year is off to a great start! There is a wonderful energy in our school building, and everyone is working hard. During the teacher work days in August before your children joined us on August 31, I spent a lot of time with my staff doing some soul searching and discussing how we all define "success" in school. I led the staff through a very thorough and comprehensive process that involved some individual thinking and writing, and then some small group processing of their collective ideas. After that, we came together as a full staff to analyze the group processing sheets and find the major commonalities we felt were crucial factors in defining our "success" as a school. From there, we took those collective notes / ideas, and worked in small groups to create some meaningful drafts of school Mission Statements. We came up with seven drafts. We had a couple of weeks to read through those, think them over, and wordsmith them so they said exactly what we felt from our hearts. At our September Staff Meeting, we re-visited these excellent drafts, and worked together to merge the best components of all seven into our new Emerson-Williams Mission Statement. We are so proud of our final product, what we did together to derive it, and how it will help guide our decisions and processes and overall school environment in the days, weeks, and months ahead. It's simple, yet profound. I'd like to share this Mission Statement with you. As you can see, you are a big part of it! We will look to you in the upcoming school year to help us carry out this very important Mission with your children. We are excited about this, and we hope you are too!

Our Mission

At Emerson-Williams Elementary School, we strongly believe in the joy of learning. Ours is a caring, compassionate environment that respects and supports the dignity of the whole child. We work hand-in-hand with families and the community to develop lifelong learners and contributing members of our changing society.

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Message from the Presidents....

Welcome Emerson-Williams Families!

We are so excited to kick off the 2015-2016 school year with all of you! The year is already off to a fantastic start. We'd like to take this first opportunity to welcome all of the new families to the Emerson-Williams community. We have many wonderful events and fundraisers during the course of the year that are sure to be successful with your help.

During the coming week the school is hosting an Open House on Wednesday and Thursday. Additionally, the school Book Store will be open. Please be sure to stop in for a visit! Any parent or staff member available to volunteer for the book store should contact Darka Jara.

During the open house the PTO will also be running the Membership Drive. Membership flyers were sent out this past week. Please take time to stop by and meet other volunteers and members of the EW community to find out how you might be able to get involved with our school.

Thanks to the efforts of our whole Emerson-Williams community and the leadership of PTO members, we started off this school year with new floors in the gymnasium and cafeteria. We'd like to say a special thank you to all of the parents and leaders that contacted the Board of Education to help make this happen. The children are truly benefiting from all of your efforts, and it shows how the community can accomplish so much when we're working together.

There are many exciting things to plan throughout the school year, and we need your help and input! Please visit our website at www.ewpto.com to keep updated on all the school activities and also "LIKE" our facebook page "Emerson-Williams Elementry School PTO".

Please feel free to contact us with any thoughts, or questions.

Sincerely,

Nathalie Trevitazzo – 2nd Year Co-President

Holly Dyjak – 1st Year Co-President

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

2015/16 PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00pm Upper Media Center

October 8 • November 12 • December 10 • January 14 • February 11 • March 10

April 14 • May 12 • June 9

www.ewpto.com

Emerson-Williams PTO 2015-2016 Student Directory & Room Parent Information



Welcome to a new school year at Emerson-Williams Elementary School! Have you considered being published in the EW PTO's Student Directory? We are in the process of collecting up-to-date contact information for the 2015-2016 class and address directory. It can serve as a reference for a list of children in a particular class, for referencing a student's classmates or teacher, or contacting a friend or parent.

Please consider providing an e-mail address for your family. In an effort to be more environmentally conscious we try and limit the number of handouts produced and provide updates via e-mail in addition to providing materials distributed to the school on our website www.ewpto.com or our Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Facebook page.

Also, have you considered being a Co-Room Parent? We are currently seeking two parent/guardian volunteers for each classroom to be involved in your child's classroom activities in a fun way. Room parents assist teachers with events and activities in the classroom, as needed, contact parents to obtain classroom raffle donations and volunteers for the Strawberry Festival held in June, and Grade 6 Room Parents coordinate with the 6th Grade Committee on activities.

If you wish to be published in the directory or wish to be considered for a Co-Room Parent position for your child's classroom, please go to our website, www.ewpto.com, and click on the link in the upper-right corner entitled, Student Directory & Room Parent Sign-Ups, then complete the form and click the submit button at the bottom. **All directory information and volunteers must be submitted by Wednesday, September 16, 2015.**

For questions or concerns, please send an email to the appropriate email address:

address.directory@ewpto.com or roomparents.committee@ewpto.com. Or you may call Leslie and John Williams, Co-Chairs Student Directory and Room Parent Committees for EW PTO, at 860-212-6878.

Thank you for helping to make this a successful school year!

Own or Work with a Local Business?

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO is offering advertising space to local businesses within our hard copy address directory. The address directory is distributed to the entire E-W population, reaching over 300 families, and is used by those families all year. We are offering this advertising opportunity to E-W parents and the local business community as a way to help promote local businesses. This is a quick and easy way to increase your clientele. Feel free to forward this flyer to any local businesses that may be interested in advertising.

For only \$50, you can reserve a business card sized space (3.5" wide x 2" high) in our 2015-2016 address directory. To take advantage of this opportunity, please complete the bottom of this form and return it with your payment (checks made payable to EWPTO) and print-ready artwork NO LATER THAN Friday, September 18, 2015. If you prefer to e-mail your artwork, you may send it to address.directory@ewpto.com. Due to printing deadlines, **this due date will not be extended**. Questions? Contact the Co-Chairpersons for the E-W PTO Student Directory Committee, Leslie & John Williams, at 860-212-6878. Thank you!

----- Cut Here -----

Yes, I would like to advertise in the 2015-2016 E-W Address Directory!

Business Name:

Contact Phone Number:

Contact E-Mail:

Please check one:

Attached is my payment of \$50.00 and my business card sized (3.5" wide x 2" high) print-ready artwork (please attach in an envelope - do not clip, tape or staple).

or ...

Attached is my payment of \$50.00 and I will be e-mailing my business card sized (3.5" wide x 2" high) print-ready artwork to address.directory@ewpto.com no later than September, 18, 2015.

Payment: Cash or check payable to EW PTO delivered via the back pack or mailed to Student Directory Committee, E-W Elementary School PTO, 461 Wells Rd, Wethersfield, CT 06109 by 9/18/2015

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.



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!

- Parents Only Book Fair – **September 16th and 17th at 6:00 PM**
- Movie Night on the Green – **September 25th at 5:30 PM**
- Weth. Craetive Arts Council Fundraiser – **October 5th at 11:00 AM** at Puerto Vallarta, Newington, CT
- Picture Day! – **Friday October 16th**

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.

Holiday Store

The holidays are right around the corner and we need your help! The holiday store needs gift bags for wrapping gifts! 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 Nathalie Trevitazzo 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 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 **2nd Year Co-President** Nathalie Trevitazzo at 2yrPres@ewpto.com.

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 Nathalie Trevitazzo. *We are currently looking for Chairs for this committee.*

Classified

Your advertisement here...

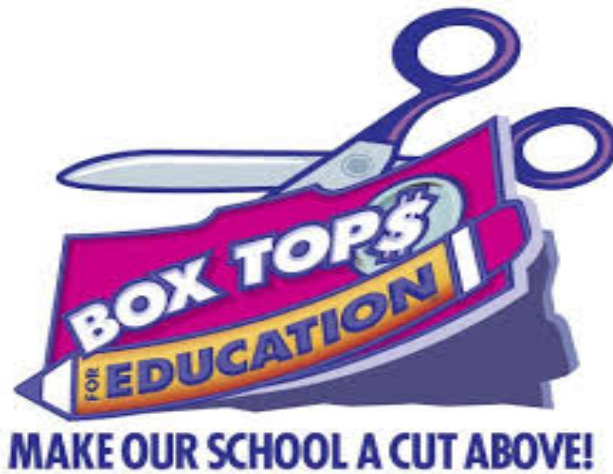
Your advertisement here...

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!

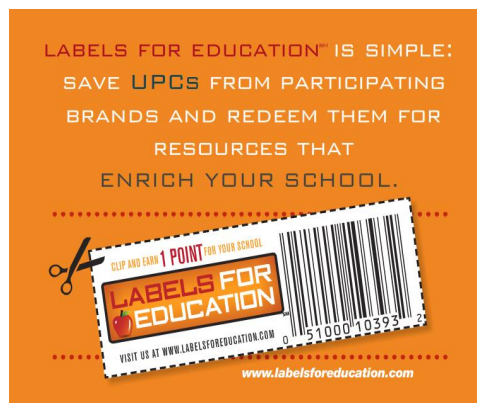
For more details about the Box Tops program, follow the link below.

<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.

September 21, 2015 – November 20, 2015

Registration begins Monday, August 31, 2015 for residents and Wednesday, September 16, 2015 for non-residents.

<p>Monday September 21st & 28th October 5th, 19th & 26th November 2nd, 9th & 16th</p>	<p>11:00am: <i>MOTHER GOOSE TIME: storytime for Birth-21 months</i> Stimulating lapsit program. Includes sharing board books, nursery rhymes & bouncing games. <u>Parent participation is key!</u> <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Monday September 21st & 28th October 5th, 19th & 26th November 2nd, 9th & 16th</p>	<p>4:00pm: <i>LEGO® JUNIOR MAKERS : 1st-3rd graders</i> Books and LEGO® bricks come together in this fun, hands-on program that will spark children's creativity. <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Monday September 21st & 28th October 5th, 19th & 26th November 2nd</p>	<p>6:00pm-7:30pm: <i>Family Place PLAY & GROW: Parent-Child Workshop</i> Each week, families can enjoy a stimulating, educational, and fun place to play & visit with resource professionals who will answer questions and provide information about a variety of parenting topics. <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Tuesday September 22nd & 29th October 6th, 20th & 27th November 3rd</p>	<p>10:30am – 12:00 noon: <i>Family Place PLAY & GROW: Parent-Child Workshop</i> Each week, families can enjoy a stimulating, educational, and fun place to play & visit with resource professionals who will answer questions and provide information about a variety of parenting topics. <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Tuesday September 29th October 27th December 1st</p>	<p>6:30pm: <i>PIZZA & PAGES: 4th-6th graders</i> <i>Nutmeg Award Book Discussion Series with a light supper.</i> September Title: <i>Pie</i> by Sarah Weeks October Title: <i>Great Trouble</i> by Deborah Hopkinson December Title: <i>Elvis & the Underdogs</i> by Jenny Lee <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Tuesday October 6th November 3rd</p>	<p>6:00pm: <i>PROJECT: CREATE!: 3rd-6th graders</i> From LEGO® masterpieces to video game coding, join us and create something awesome! <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Wednesday September 23rd & 30th October 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th November 4th, 11th & 18th</p>	<p>10:30am: <i>BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!: storytime for 3-5 year olds</i> This program is designed to help develop pre-reading skills and to enjoy theme based stories, fingerplays, songs & games. <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Wednesday September 30th October 28th November 18th</p>	<p>4:00pm: <i>NUTMEG NIBBLES: 2nd – 4th graders</i> Explore the Elementary Nutmeg Nominees with snacks, crafts & fun activities! <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Thursday September 24th October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th November 5th, 12th & 19th</p>	<p>10:30am: <i>WEE READ: 22-35 months</i> Exciting program where toddlers begin to appreciate longer stories & participate in group activities. <u>Parent participation is key!</u> <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Thursday September 24th October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th November 12th & 19th</p>	<p>6:00pm: <i>BUILDING STEAM: for 5-7 year olds (no class November 5th)</i> Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math through fun activities. <i>Registration is required</i></p>
<p>Friday September 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th November 6th, 13th & 20th</p>	<p>10:00am -12:00 noon: <i>DROP-IN PLAYTIME +</i> 10:45am: <i>SHORT & SWEET STORYTIME: all ages</i> Drop-in family fun with a story and a song.</p>