SEPTEMBER 2018 TIGER TOPICS



WELCOME TO EMERSON-WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
WWW.EWPTO.COM

#### FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome Back EW Tigers, Parents and Families,

On behalf of the PTO, we would like to welcome everyone back to school. You ask, what is the PTO? The PTO stands for Parent-Teacher Organization, consisting of parents and teachers/staff working together to support and enrich all students, our school and our community. We support school teachers/staff, help promote student self-esteem and growth, and assist in efforts to solve and better school needs through collaboration, volunteering, and funding.

We hope you had a wonderful summer! Last school year, we finished with another phenomenal Strawberry Festival, chaired by Colleen Mattatall and Rhonda Dellaripa, along with the help from numerous volunteers that help make this an ongoing success. Thank you to all that helped and participated in this event!

This year we have wonderful things planned for you, both new and returning activities and/or events. September is a busy month for everyone. The PTO is no different as it blasts off with our annual Tiger Trot Color Run on **Saturday, September 8th** which celebrates its second year. Next month, we plan to bring a Comedy Night for adults (details to come). We look to

provide other great family fun activities, as well as some new and returning fundraisers. We hope you will be a part of it!

This year, our first PTO meeting will be EARLY...it's NEXT THURSDAY, September 6th at 7pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams. We will have a **New Member Meet &** Greet at 6:30pm before the meeting. Typically, these meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please join us to see what we do, what is already planned for the year and how you can get involved. If you can't make the meeting but want to stay informed, please 'Like' us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ewpto/) and click on the 'Sign Up' button on our Facebook page to receive email blasts. Don't have Facebook? Go to our website at www.ewpto.com and click on the button 'PTO Email Distribution List' located on the right-hand side of the main page. Or you can email us at PTOBoard@ewpto.com.

Welcome back! It's going to be a wonderful year and we can't wait to see you!

Autumn Struk, 2nd Year Co-President

Chrissy Pikos, 1st Year Co- President

#### **Get To Know**

Last year Tiger Topics began the *Get To Know* series where we help our school community get to know our school and PTO. Continuing with the series, we begin with our Emerson-Williams PTO board members.

#### **EW Student Phone Book**

Ever wonder how you are going to invite your child's best friend to his/her birthday party or schedule a play date? Well, our EW Student Phone Book is the place to look. Consider submitting your name and email or phone number to publish. It is a booklet sent home to all of our students for use by parents in our school community. It is not published online, but you can go to our web site to submit your info at **ewpto.com** and click on the 'EW Student Phone Book' button.

#### **2018-2019 PTO Meetings**

Emerson-Williams Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams at 7:00 p.m.

September 6, October 11, November 8, January 10, February 7, March 14, April 18, & May 9

#### **EWPTO Event Calendar**

#### September - TBA

School Spirit Wear Apparel Sales

#### September I

Membership Drive begins

#### September 3

No School - Labor Day

#### September 6

New Member Meet & Greet, 6:30 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams. Stop by for an overview of the PTO and learn ways to get involved.

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### September 8

Tiger Trot Color Run, 10am to 12pm. The PTO hosts its second annual color run. Join us for this fun, free family community building event that brings together our families for an eventful morning of running or walking while being doused in colorful powder. Music provided by DJ Mr. Coursey. Participants receive a tattoo and sunglasses upon check-in. They will also receive a FREE ice cream from Main Street Creamery. Check-in begins at 10am and a staggering start begins at 10:30am with the 6th grade.

#### September 10-14

Scholastic Book Fair in the Emerson-Williams Upper Media Center. Sponsored by EWPTO. Students have the opportunity to explore the book fair during school hours. The book fair is open during Open House nights for parents to shop.

#### September 12

Open House for Grades K through 3

#### September 13

Open House for Grades 4 through 6

#### September 21

Dinner on the Lawn, 5pm to 7pm at Emerson-Williams near the big playscape. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket, chairs, bug spray, and all your family for a fun filled night at school. The Rents will be there for your entertainment. Get to know your child's friends and family too.

Membership Drive Due

#### September 25

Vineyard Vines Fundraiser, 6 pm to 9 pm at Westfarms Mall. Stop by the Vineyard Vines and receive 10% off your purchase. This event will give 10% of all sales to the EWPTO.

#### September 26

Fall Picture Day. Sponsored by the EWPTO. Students have their professional portraits taken by Ted Morton Photography.

#### October - TBA

**Box Tops** 

#### October 8

No School - Columbus Day

#### October II

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### October 19

Adult Comedy Night, 7:00 pm in the Pitkin Community Center

#### October 23, 24, 25

Half Day of School - 12:55 Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

#### October 26

Fall Fundraiser Yankee Candle, Cookies and Butter Braid sale

#### **November - TBA**

Puerto Vallarta Fundraiser Night

Holiday Store

#### **November 6**

No School - Election Day

#### **November 8**

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### November 12

No School - Veterans Day

#### November 13 - TBA

Fall Fundraiser

#### **November 21**

Half Day of School - 12:55 Dismissal

#### November 22 & 23

No School - Thanksgiving Recess

#### **December - TBA**

Vendor Fair

#### December 24 - 31

No School - Holiday Recess

#### January - TBA

**UCONN** Game

#### January I

No School - New Year's Day

#### January 10

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### January 21

No School - MLK Day

#### February - TBA

Family Activity Night or Restaurant Fundraiser

#### February 7

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### February 15

No School - Professional Development

#### February 18, 19

No School - Winter Recess

#### February 22

Munson Chocolates fundraiser

#### March - TBA

Family Activity Night

**Box Tops Collection** 

#### March II

Munson Chocolates fundraiser ends

#### March 14

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### March 19

Half Day of School - 12:55 Dismissal

#### March 21

Half Day of School - 12:55 Dismissal

#### April - TBA

Mixed Bags Fundraiser

#### April 8 - 12

No School - Spring Recess

#### April 18

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### April 19

No School - Good Friday

#### May - TBA

Poetry Afternoon

Yard Goats Family Game

#### May 9

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

#### **May 27**

No School - Memorial Day

#### June - TBA

Strawberry Festival

#### lune 13

Tentative Last Day of School

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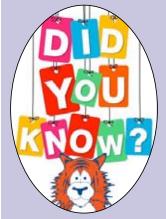
#### **Get To Know... the Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Board**



I'm Autumn Struk, the 2nd Year Co-President of EWPTO. I love to make people happy and smile and find joy in helping to ensure all feel included and welcome all of the time! I'm mother to Tatum, 6th grade, and Gavin 3rd grade. I'm a full-time work-athome mom (sometimes 50 hour work weeks). Our family has a bucket list that we try to keep updated and continuously check things off! The most amazing item we've had the experience of thus far was being a Surrogate Family where we were able to help another family have a baby! My husband, Jeff Struk, is very supportive and is my rock! Our family has two German Shepherds whose names are Hunter and Gunner. In my free-time (what free time!?!?!) - I love sitting on the back porch and reading a good book. I love Emerson-Williams because coming here four years ago, after moving from Manchester, CT - EW staff and teachers were so amazingly welcoming. Since then, the friendliness and continuous want to make the school better has never faded! I love being a part of such an amazing community! I'm passionate about EWPTO because, to me, having a strong and welcoming Community is one of the most important things teachers, students and families need to ensure a successful learning environment. Being a part of EWPTO allows me to be a part of the Community we want to build for our children and school. It brings me so much happiness to know that we have an organization that wants nothing but the best for our Community and the smiles and thanks received lets you know that everyone is on the same page. EWPTO equals COMMUNITY to me and when children and adults experience a kind, loving environment - we all can only excel!!!

I am the incoming treasurer, Amy Burlingame. I have lived in Wethersfield since 2010 and have one son, Luke (Stevenson), who just turned 7 and is going into Ist grade at Emerson-Williams this year. I have been involved in various EWP-TO committees and participate in Wethersfield School Parent Council (WSPC), which represents each school in the district. I have been a stay-at-home mom since 2014, and prior to that, worked in Human Resources for many years. I love books and libraries. I am a big fan of teaching and learning. PTO has been a great opportunity to stay informed, meet other families in the community, and help out students, teachers, and staff at EW.





Never miss an event by subscribing and linking the PTO calendar to your smart phone or tablet. For more information, visit: www.ewpto.com/eventcal.html

Support Emerson-Williams with your everyday activities without spending an extra cent! Visit http://www.ewpto.com/shopping.html and find out how.

See what information our website has to offer: http://www.ewpto.com/sitemap.html

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#### **Get To Know... the Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Board (continued)**

My name is Chrissy Pikos and I am the newly appointed Ist year Co-President. If you're surprised by that, how do you think I feel? For years, I hid behind my computer as I managed the EW PTO website (www.ewpto.com) and Facebook page. I now realize that after many years of being on the PTO, I really should have paid more attend to how things ran now that I begin my new role. My family has dealt with a great deal with change over the past few years. I began my second career as a nurse and, earlier this year, started working at Hartford Hospital. Also within this year, my husband of I5 years also began a new job at Simsbury Public Schools. Somehow I am also the mother of a 5th grader (her name is Cristina). I am a long-time resident of Wethersfield. As Highcrest alumnus, I specifically remember the annual Highcrest Fair; it was my favorite. Now as an adult, my memory isn't the greatest but do remember decorating

my own cupcake (ok, I decorated more than one) and buying pansies for my mother for Mother's Day. I mean, I don't remember what I did yesterday, but I remember a pathetically decorated, vanilla cupcake by yours truly? Yeah, I do! I began attending PTO meetings in order to update the website but also to know the dates and times of PTO and school events. I feel the EW PTO creates and endorses some wonderful activities and programs for the children at our school but also for the families. I also met some wonderful parents and families who I may not have met otherwise. I hope these events will forever be a wonderful memory for our children as it was for me growing up.

Hi! My name is Fran Schwarzhaupt and I'm the secretary for the EWPTO for 2018-2019. My son, Gavin, is in third grade and my littlest guy, Noah, will be in kindergarten at EW next

year. I graduated from Wethersfield High School (many many years ago lol), went to UCONN and became a nurse. I love to read (but only seem to have time to do it before bed and then my nose ends up in the book) and spending time with my family (not just my husband and boys but my sisters and their families as well.) My husband, Mike, and I moved to Wethersfield 6 years ago. A friend told me after we moved to town, that I will love EW and she was right! I work 32 hours a week at Hartford Hospital and with my ever changing work hours, I never imagined myself being a member of the PTO. But after meeting a lot of great parents who work hard to bring great programs and fun events to our school, I realized I wanted to do as much as I can to be part of that team. Gavin has had a great time at Emerson Williams so far. The EW staff and family community has not only been wonderful for my kid but for me as well!

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#### **EWPTO Frequently Asked Questions**

#### How do I register to be a member of EWPTO?

You can register anytime by choosing which level of membership you'd like to have on our web page (www.ewpto.com) by clicking on the "PTO Membership Drive" button on the right navigation bar. Print out the form, complete it and return it to school.

#### When are the EWPTO meetings?

EWPTO meetings are generally held the second Thursday of each month, September through June, at 7pm in the upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams Elementary School. These meetings are open to all of the school community. We hope to see you there!

#### What goes on at EWPTO meetings?

We discuss, learn about, and help plan upcoming school or PTO events, vote on any purchases that need to be made, listen to teacher requests and guest speakers, and get to know other Emerson-Williams parents, teachers, and staff.

## If I am unable to attend the PTO meetings, but I still want to be involved, can I still join and volunteer in some way?

There are still plenty of ways to get involved! Whether it's giving financially, giving of your time, or making suggestions on ways to help Emerson-Williams Elementary School, WE NEED YOU, so please join today and explore the rest of the website to find out more about how you can help. Please feel free to contact any of our Board members if you have any questions - we are here to help!

## Do you have to be a parent of a student to volunteer for EWPTO? Can grandparents, family friends, etc. volunteer?

We welcome anyone to volunteer for the PTO who shares the common goal of advancing Emerson-Williams Elementary School.

#### What are PTO membership funds used for?

Annually, EWPTO funds support school assemblies, enrichment programs for every grade, teacher wish list program, technology improvements, and fun family events, such as Strawberry Festival, Dinner and Music on the Lawn, Bingo Night, Movie Night, and much, much more.

#### Why should I register as a member of EWPTO?

Being a member of EWPTO helps you stay connected. It's a great way to discover resources through our many programs. Of course, a large function of the PTO is fundraising. As an important part of what we do, these fundraising efforts provide curriculum-based programs, technology improvements, and community events. In addition, the PTO strives to play a supportive role to teachers and staff in the classroom and through appreciation events. All of these are vital to our school's and students' success. Being a PTO member also provides opportunities to meet and support teachers and other parents. Through that, you can develop relationships that let you share ideas, concern, and experiences allowing a more effective way to influence positive change at our school. By getting involved, you'll be part of solutions. Only PTO members can vote on PTO issues. And, as a PTO member, you will be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education and open communication. We hope you'll register with EWPTO today!



New to Emerson-Williams? Take a peak at our 'New Parent Information' located on our website. Visit http://www.ewpto.com/newparents.html

Still have questions? Click the 'Contact Us' button on our website, email PTOboard@ewpto.com, or contact the Emerson-Williams at 860-571-8360.

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#### **Sponsorship**

#### Do you own a business?

Place your ad here. More information regarding sponsorship is in this edition of Tiger Topics or email tigertopics@ewpto.com for more information.

#### **Committees**

Bingo: Committee members are involved in soliciting prizes, set-up, checking of bingo cards, distribution of prizes, raffle and refreshments.

Book Fair: Committee members are involved in the set-up of books, assisting children in previewing and purchasing books. The book fairs occur in the fall and possibly in spring if there is interest. Scheduled to occur in September.

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation: This committee consists of obtaining cards and gifts to recognize events in the life of school staff, and putting together a luncheon for Teacher Appreciation week and small monthly signs of appreciation.

Community Outreach: Committee members organize different community outreach opportunities for E-W to participate in. Examples: collection of food, cleaning products, or personal hygiene items. Coordinate with Wethersfield Social Services or other local organization. Occurs in sporadically throughout the year as needed.

Copy Crew: Individuals who can come into the school and make copies for the entire school on an as-needed basis. Random texts are sent to all members and whoever can make it, can reply to all and volunteer. Occurs in sporadically throughout the year as needed.

Dance: Committee members create a beautiful dance at our school. Kids invite their Someone Special whether it be a grandmother, grandfather, mother, father, uncle, aunt, or step-parent. Typically occurs in the Winter or Spring.

Fundraiser - Holiday Store: This family event provides students with an opportunity to shop for their family. Committee members shop for gifts, decorate, help students shop, and help wrap purchased gifts. *Typically occurs in November*.

## Please visit www.ewpto.com/committees.html for a full list of committees.

Fundraiser - Manager: Research and organize schedule fundraisers for the following school year for the PTO.

Fundraiser - Mixed Bags Designs: A committee member establishes and runs fundraising project to raise funds for the general PTO fund. *Typically occurs in April.* 

Fundraiser - UCONN Game: A committee member works with UCONN to schedule a date and market the event. Typically occurs in the winter.

Fundraiser - Vendor Night: Committee members plan and implement this fundraising event in which vendors purchase table space for an evening of shopping by E-W families and community members. *Typically occurs in November or December.* 

Fundraiser - Yard Goats Game: A committee member works with company for key dates and schedule and market event. Occurs in the spring.

Room Parents: Members of this committee solicit volunteers for room parents and coordinate the assigning of these volunteers to classrooms under the policy set forth by the PTO in September.

TV Turnoff Week: Committee Members organize activities and projects to do during a full week to promote no TV watching for the week. Typically coincides with National TV Turn Off Week in April.



### **SHOP & SUPPORT A CAUSE**

Join the Emerson-Williams PTO and take 10% off\* your purchase while vineyard vines gives 10% back to the Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO, an organization that serves the families of Emerson-Williams and helps support the students, staff and curriculum.



Tuesday, September 25 · 6-9PM

vineyard vines | WEST HARTFORD

1500 NEW BRITAIN AVE | WEST HARTFORD, CT | P: 860-256-3982



September 21, 2018.

# Sponsor the Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO is offering TWO ways for local businesses to advertise:

Address Directory: For \$50, you can place a business card sized space (3.5" wide x 2" high) in our 2018-2019 address directory. The address directory is a paper 'book' that distributed to ALL Emerson-Williams families at the beginning of the year Monthly Newsletter: For \$50 you can place a business card sized space (3.5" x 2" high) in our newsletter called Tiger Topics (same ad each month). Tiger Topics is distributed in paper and posted on Facebook and loaded onto our website each month (minimum 5 issues per year)

### OR for \$100 you can do both!

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 21, 2018**.

If you prefer to e-mail your artwork, you may send it to <u>address.directory@ewpto.com</u> or
fmastr9@cox.net Questions? Call Fran Schwarzhaupt (860)305-9898 Thank you!
Yes, I would like to advertise in the 2018-2019 EW Address Directory!
Business Name:
Contact Phone Number:
Contact E-Mail:
Please check one:
<ul> <li>□ Attached is my payment of \$50.00 to advertise in student directory <b>ONLY</b></li> <li>□ Attached is my payment of \$50.00 to advertise in Tiger Topics, the monthly newsletter <b>ONLY</b></li> <li>□ Attached is my payment of \$100.00 to advertise in <b>BOTH</b> student directory and Tiger Topics newsletter</li> </ul>
Attach your print-ready artwork or business card- do not clip, tape or staple or
EMAIL the 3.5" wide x 2" high) print-ready artwork to address.directory@ewpto.com no later than

<u>Payment</u>: Cash or check payable to EWPTO can be mailed to <u>Student Directory Committee</u>, E-W Elementary School PTO, 461 Wells Rd, Wethersfield, CT 06109



Donate DIRECTLY to the PTO and guiltlessly abstain from all PTO fund raisers! The donated money is a DIRECT DONATION and is tax-deductible!

Fundraising is crucial to our PTO as it helps bring great programs to our school for ALL students. See chart below for donation levels and tokens of thanks for each level of giving. All donation amounts are welcome.

Amount	<u>Benefits</u>	
\$10	Family Membership of PTO	
\$25	Bronze Member of PTO; receive one lanyard	
\$50	Silver Member of PTO; receive one lanyard and one reusable shopping bag	
\$100	Gold Member of PTO; receive one lanyard; one reusable shopping bag & one RAFFLE entry for a \$100 Target gift card	

Being a "Member" of the PTO allows you to vote at PTO meetings as well as know you are supporting a worthy cause and enhancing your child's experience at Emerson-Williams Elementary School. You may also become a member without donating by emailing <a href="mailto:secretary@ewpto.com">secretary@ewpto.com</a> and simply request membership.

#### Last year the PTO brought these wonderful things to our school:

<u>Events:</u> Color Run, Talent Show, Someone Special Dance, Strawberry Festival, Yard Goats game, Holiday Store, Vendor Fair

School assemblies: High Touch-High Tech, Antonio Rocha, Dr. Dribble

<u>Classroom Enhancements:</u> Alternative chairs (Wobble chairs) for each classroom, magnetic trays and storage boxes for Kindergarten and 1st grade classes books to support the school-wide book club AND 10 copies of each Nutmeg Book Award nominee for the school library (total 100 books)

Please provide the following information to	o receive your receipt with cash/che	eck made out to EWPTO by 9/21/18:
Family name (all adults in family):		_ Donation amount: \$
Student name:	Teacher:	Grade:

\*\*Remember this is a <u>tax-deductible</u> donation. You will receive a receipt for this donation which can be used for <u>Corporate Donation Match</u> programs\*\*

Ask your employer if they match donations to Non-Profit Organizations such as the Emerson-Williams PTO



#### What is a Room Parent?

Room parent's work with their child's teacher and gain insight into what the classroom needs are and assist accordingly.

#### A Room Parent assists with:

- -Coordination of parent volunteers for classroom events/activities
- -Helping to organize Holiday Gifts/Teacher Appreciation Week Gifts
- -Helping to solicit Strawberry Festival raffle basket donations for the class
- Any additional opportunities as they arise throughout the school year

#### A Room Parent should:

- -Delegate and encourage other parents/guardians and their family to help
- -Maintain a positive morale and attitude towards other parents
- -Communicate with the classroom parents to keep them informed
- -Share PTO information with parents as it becomes available

Parent Email: \_

#### **How can I volunteer?**

- -Complete and return the below interest slip to your child's teacher or go to <a href="www.ewpto.com">www.ewpto.com</a> and click the 'Room Parent Volunteers' button on the right navigation bar by <a href="September 14">September 14</a>.
- -The EWPTO Room Parents Committee will contact you if selected; there are usually 3 Room Parents per classroom.
- -For further details or if you have any questions, please email the Room Parents Committee at <u>roomparents.committee@ewpto.com</u>

<u>oomparer</u>	<u></u> Cut Here
1	Please Return by September 14 to your child's teacher.
	YES, I want to be an Emerson-Williams Room Parent!
	Parent Name:
	Parent Phone Number:

Student Name:	Student's Teacher/Grade:
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There will be a bag put together with everything for participating in the Color Run/Walk for your family/participants!\*\*\*

\*\*\*If the below form is NOT submitted by 9/6, that's OK!! You can still come and participate; just go to the "Check-in Table", you will then get your needs for the morning.\*\*\*

CUT HERE		
Please submit the below back to your child's teacher by <b>THURSDAY, September 6</b> .		
YES, OUR FAMILY WANTS TO WALK/RUN!!!		
I'd like to also help at the event!		
Family Name:		
Student Name:		
Number participating in the run/walk:		
Email to contact if volunteering:		



Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
- Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

#### Here's what you need to know!

#### Monday 9/10 - 8:30 - 2:45 - Classroom Visits

Your child will have the opportunity during the school day to visit the book fair. They will bring home a list of books that he/she is interested in.

#### Tuesday 9/11 - 3pm - 7pm - Adults and Students

Come and visit us!

Check out the books that your child selected and add to your home library!

#### Wednesday 9/12 - 5pm - 9pm - Adults Only

Join us before or after your open house session to enjoy a little shopping time!

Books for all ages!

#### Thursday 9/13 - 5pm - 9pm - Adults Only

Join us before or after your open house session to enjoy a little shopping time!

Books for all ages!

#### Friday 9/14 - 8:30 - 2:45 - Students Only

This is your child's last opportunity to visit our book fair.

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at **scholastic.com/fair**.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school. Thank you!!



## **KEEP IN TOUCH!!!**

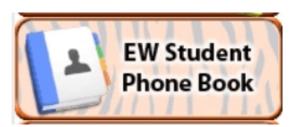
Room parents want to reach you for class events...

Other parents want to invite you for parties and playdates...

Complete a list of student names for each classroom....



Go to EWPTO.com and click on this link:



Enter your family contact info (email, name, address, and/or phone number.)

You decide what contact info you want to share in our student phone book/directory so classroom lists can be made and room parents/other parents can reach you!

Deadline for phone book entries is September 21, 2018