



Tiger Topics
School Newsletter

EMERSON-WILLIAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

WELCOME TO
EMERSON-WILLIAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
WWW.EWPTO.COM

FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Can you believe it's already mid-February? Our wonderful Talent Show occurred on February 7th. I was unfortunately working but I hear it was a great time. I was amazed to hear that five students ran the backstage crew! Miranda helped set up the art show, Ryan was in charge of audio and visual, Emmett set up the stage props and mics between each act, Holden managed the acts in and off the stage and Camden helped DJ the music. Each student was paired with a parent volunteer, if needed, but that is so impressive. Congratulations to everyone who performed an act, created art, helped in production, and parent volunteers. Thank you for your hard work!

The Munson's Chocolate fundraiser has made it way around; it ends on

February 21. Orders are scheduled to arrive before Easter. On Tuesday, **February 11th**, the EW staff were able to feast on some Parisian snacks provided by our wonderful parent volunteers. Additionally, if you're shopping at Stop & Shop over at Town Line Road, don't forget to pick up a community bag or encourage others to purchase one.

Next month, we have our **Cultural Night on Friday, March 6th at 6:30pm**. Come travel the world within Emerson-Williams' diverse community. Passport photos are taken upon arrival and an Emerson-Williams passport will be distributed. Learn about other cultures, sample the cuisine, listen to different music, explore new things, or dominate the

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WSPC Volunteer Award

Each year, we have an opportunity to look back at this school year and recognize a special parent or other volunteer that has gone above and beyond in our contribution to our school community. Too often we are so busy organizing events, fundraisers, meetings, and so many other things with the goal of making our school community a better place for our kids, families and teachers. The WSPC Volunteer Awards offers us a chance to stop to reflect and recognize the contributions that many of our volunteers make.

If you know of a volunteer at our school who deserves such recognition for all their hard work and contributions, please fill out the form found in this edition of Tiger Topics or email a message to our WSPC Reps that you would like to nominate that person. Our WSPC representatives are Colleen and Shana and their email is wspc@ewpto.com.

WETHERSFIELD EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS - A CALL TO ACTION

During our February PTO meeting, Ms. Thakur spoke about the current 2020/2021 school district budget that Mr. Emmett presented to the Board of Education (BOE). His proposal is a 3.66% budget increase to cover contractually obligated expenses. The BOE asked him to reduce his proposal to 3% which means staffing cuts. The expectation is that the town council will then reduce it below 3.0%, necessitating further staffing cuts.

Ms. Pulino, our ESL teacher, is servicing over 60 children at our school; an overworked and stretched workload. This is just one example of what is happening in our school; Yet, the BOE is requesting reductions.

With these cuts, how many teachers/staff would the school system lose, what's the effect on the curriculum, how will class sizes balloon, what is the impact to

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At a previous PTO meeting, we learned

2019-2020 PTO Meetings

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

March 12

April 2,

May 14, & June 4

EWPTO Event Calendar

February 3

Munson Chocolates fundraiser begins

February 4

PTO Karate after school program,
EW Gymnasium, 3:15pm to 3:45pm

February 6

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
in the Upper Media Center

February 7

Talent Showcase
Webb Elementary School, 6pm

February 11

Staff Luncheon

February 14

No School

February 17

No School

February 18

No School

February 21

Munson Chocolates fundraiser ends

March 4

Half Day

March 6

Cultural Night, 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Emerson-Williams gymnasium

March 9

Boon Supply fundraiser begins

March 12

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
in the Upper Media Center

March 20

Casino bus trip, Adults only
6th Grade Committee Activity

March 24

Half Day

March 24

Puerto Vallarta, 4pm to close
6th Grade Committee Activity

March 26

Half Day

March 27

Creative Arts assembly

March 20

Boon Supply fundraiser ends

April 1

Half Day

April 2

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
in the Upper Media Center

April 3

Ivy the Frenchie Assembly
(during school hours, times vary)



Someone Special Dance
EW gymnasium, TBA time

April 4

Yankee vs Blue Jays Game
Yankee Stadium (pending interest)

April 10-17

No School

April 27-29

Spring Book Fair, TBA

May - TBA

Poetry Afternoon

Box Tops Collection

May 5

Spring Picture Day

Staff Luncheon

May 6

Half Day

Bike to School Day

May 14

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
in the Upper Media Center

May 22

Half Day

May 25

No School

May 31

Yard Goats Game
Dunkin Donuts Field, 1:10pm

June - TBA

Strawberry Festival

June 2

Dollars for Scholars Awards Program

June 4

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
in the Upper Media Center

June 12

Tentative Last Day of School

Email Communication

The PTO is making an effort to reduce the amount of paper flyers sent home in your child's backpack. Please provide your email so we can keep you up-to-date on school events, volunteer opportunities, PTO events, and fundraising news.

Fill out the form included in this edition of Tiger Topics or go to our website at www.ewpto.com and click on the 'Subscribe' button. If you're using a tablet or cell phone, click on 'SUBSCRIBE' under the 'Get Involved' tab.

EMERSON-WILLIAMS TIGERS

(continued from page 1)

maintaining all of our sports programs, and how these cuts will delay our efforts to improve the security of all our schools? These proposed cuts will be damaging to the 2020-2021 school budget and reduce the quality of your child's education. Understand the consequences and what this means for education in our town.

If you are concerned with more proposed budget cuts which affect our children's education, please let your voice be heard. We appreciate any strong support you are able make in the hopes that our children, staff and schools don't feel any more negative impacts from the budget cuts.

Here are the dates to remember:

3/10 @ 7pm BOE votes on their budget. This send the BOE's proposed budget to the council where the Council will take it under consideration.

3/16 @ 7pm BOE presents budget to council. Here the BOE administration explains their budget needs for the schools.

4/20 @ 7pm Public Hearing on Town & BOE Budget. This is critical as Town Council members will hear from the public after the Council puts together what they believe is an appropriate level to find the towns schools.

We urge you to email the BOE and Town Council and speak your mind. Or attend a BOE or Town Council meeting!

Thank you for your time,

Your PTO Board: Chrissy, Rebecca, Amy & Fran

Sample emails:

The following sample emails have been created for your use. Feel free to use the text as is, add to, or remove text.

An email sent to BOE@wethersfield.me will reach every member of the Wethersfield Board of Education.

Dear Board of Education Member,

Please vote in favor of accepting the

modestly increased budget proposed by Superintendent Michael Emmett of 3.66%. I feel it is important that the school staff and children do not suffer any more losses. We should continuously make a very strong investment in our Wethersfield Public Schools. Our children are the future of this great town, and we need to make them our top priority during every budget season. Please, no cuts to the Wethersfield Public Schools proposed budget of the 3.66% increase for the 2020-2021 school year!

Thank you,

Name
Address
Proud Parent/Guardian of a Wethersfield Public Schools Student

To email Town Council Members of 2019-2021:

michael.rell@wethersfieldct.gov,
tom.mazzarella@wethersfieldct.gov,
amy.bello@wethersfieldct.gov,
tyler.flanigan@wethersfieldct.gov,

matthew.forrest@wethersfieldct.gov,
kevin.hill@wethersfieldct.gov,
brooks.parker@wethersfieldct.gov,
mary.pelletier@wethersfieldct.gov,
pat.pentalow@wethersfieldct.gov

Dear Town Council Representative:

Please vote in favor of the modestly increased Board of Education budget proposed by Superintendent Michael Emmett of 3.66%. I feel it is important that the school staff and children do not suffer any more losses. We should continuously make a very strong investment in our Wethersfield Public Schools. Our children are the future of this great town, and we need to make them our top priority during every budget season. Please, no cuts to the Wethersfield Public Schools proposed budget of the 3.66% increase for the 2020-2021 school year!

Thank you,

Name
Address
Proud Parent/Guardian of a Wethersfield Public Schools Student



Are you feeling lucky?

Calling all E-W Families and Special Guest Stars!

Do you know an E-W parent with great ideas or a desire to be more in-the-know or involved at school? Help us find participants with new ideas and energy!

Starting in March, we are actively trying to refresh awareness of and participation in E-W PTO going into the spring season.

Please plan to attend on March 12th meeting and invite a Special Guest Star (friend or neighbor) to attend with you to show off what PTO is all about.

This person must be an E-W parent/guardian and not live in your same household.

For each Special Guest Star (friend) you bring to the meeting, you will be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

All friends attending will also be entered into a separate drawing to win their own \$25 gift card. The winners will be drawn at the end of the March PTO meeting and winners must be present.

E-W PTO meetings take place at the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams at 7:00 pm. Hear updates from the principal, learn about special projects or purchases for the school, and upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

We hope you can join us!



Our Sponsors

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.

John M. Zubretsky, Jr. / President

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 jzubretsky@gmail.com / www.thezubretskygroup.com

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 www.julielemosrealtor.com

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 Owner

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 o 860.313.0700

KW GREATER HARTFORD
 KELLER WILLIAMS

Committee Volunteer Needs

Strawberry Festival: Members organize this fair like event, usually includes inflatables, DJ, games, etc. They also coordinate volunteers needed for event, set up and clean up. This event usually occurs near the end of the school year.

Translators: The PTO is looking for translators! Are you bilingual (or multilingual) in English and other languages, such as Spanish, Bosnian or Mandarin? If so, and you're willing to get involved, we'd love to have you translate some of our content! Please email us at PTOBoard@ewpto.com if you are interested!

Box Tops for Education

The Box Tops program is going digital! No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your school's Box Tops earnings online.



Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢ for your school. Make sure each one has a clearly visible product acronym and expiration date.

Another collection will occur in May 2020. Keep scanning those receipts!

Tips for Encouraging Reading at Home by Brenda McLaughlin, Reading & Language Arts Consultant

Reading in volume is enormously beneficial for children (and adults!). Every time we read, we learn more about reading. Among the many advantages of reading, vocabulary increases simply by reading. We also build up our knowledge and understanding of people and the world when we read. Would you like to increase the amount of time your children—or even your whole family—spends enjoying reading? Here is a menu of ideas. Do what works for your family!

- Offer choice. Create options that will work for your family. Examples:
 - o Would you like to read right after dinner or in bed with a flashlight?
 - o Would you like to read to me or do you prefer to read to your stuffed animal?

- Drop Everything And Read! (DEAR) A Colleague shared with me several years ago that Dr. David Monti, her professor for a graduate program at CCSU, hosted a thirty-minute time for reading for his family—and anyone else who happened to be in the house—daily. For thirty minutes, everybody (i.e., adults and children) stopped what they were doing and sat down with something to read. Anything: comics, fiction or nonfiction books, magazines, etc. Not only does this approach preserve a sacred time daily for reading, but it also builds a sense of belonging. For some people, reading can feel lonely if they have to go off on their own to read. When everybody is reading at the same time, comradery replaces separateness.

Note: Students must still read what their

teachers reading homework requires. “Anything”, if different, might serve as a supplement.

- Share the reading load! If your child is reluctant to read, it can help if the load is lightened. Sometimes, all that is needed is for a parent or other loving family member to read the first page, and then the child is willing to take over. For other kids, it is important to take turns—perhaps the child reads every other page. That’s fine! Do what works to keep the reading going!

Above all, do what works best for your family. Happy reading!

ANNOUNCING! The FIRST EVER EMERSON- WILLIAMS PARENT/CHILD BOOK CLUB



Who: EW Fifth & Sixth Graders and their parent/guardian

What: A book discussion group

When: Tuesday, February 25th, 6:30-7:30 PM - Snowdate: Tuesday March 3rd
Thursday, March 26th, 6:30-7:30 PM - Snowdate: Tuesday March 31st
Tuesday, April 28th, 6:30-7:30 PM - No snowdate (fingers crossed!)

Where: Emerson-Williams Cafeteria

Why: For the love of reading and to talk about books in a relaxed atmosphere

Please join us for the **FIRST EVER EW Parent/Child Book Club**. Our first selection will be *Ban This Book* by Alan Gratz, a current Nutmeg nominee. This book has been very popular with students and is about a girl who fights back when she discovers her favorite book has been banned from her school library. Very topical and lots to talk about! Come to one meeting or all three. We'll decide on the next two books at our first meeting.

The book is available at our school media center, the town library, That Book Store 1151 Silas Deane Hwy, on Barnes&Noble.com, or Amazon.com. Our PTO has generously purchased 10 new copies of the book, which will be available to borrow by the first 10 pairs to respond. Please indicate on the response tear-off if you would like to borrow a book and it will be sent home with the student.

The group will be facilitated by Ms. Haggerty, an EW Reading Tutor and book lover. Hope you can join us! We respectfully request that younger siblings be kept at home.

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Clemens Group


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6th Grade Fundraiser

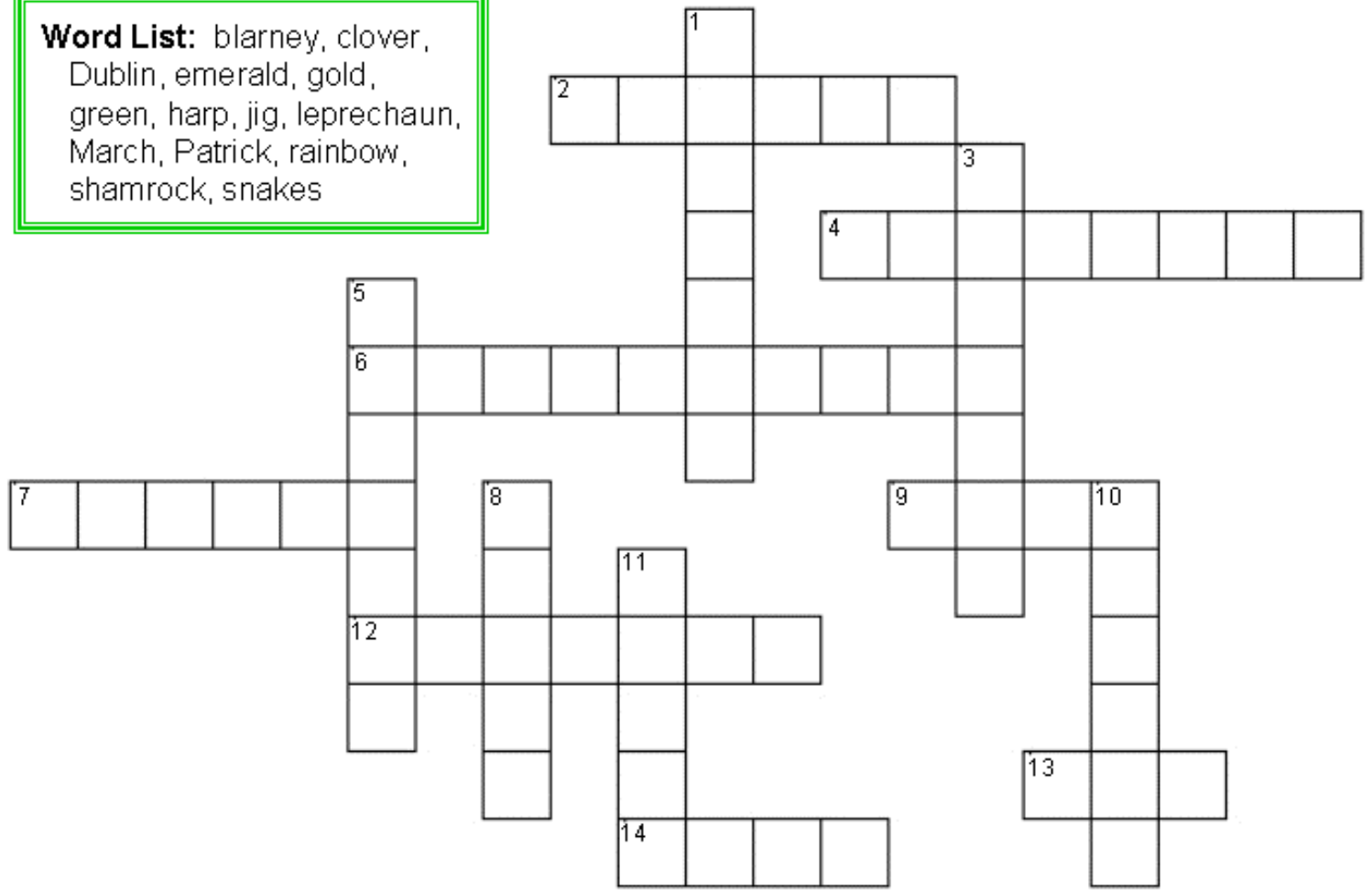
Tuesday, 3/24/29 • 4:00 p.m. to close

Puerto Vallarta Restaurant | 2385 Berlin Turnpike | Newington, CT 06111

Have dinner at Puerto Vallarta Restaurant in Newington (including take out, bar, and restaurant) and Puerto Vallarta will generously donate 20% of the proceeds to support the E-W 6th Grade class. Thank you so much for your support!

St. Patrick's Day Crossword

Word List: blarney, clover, Dublin, emerald, gold, green, harp, jig, leprechaun, March, Patrick, rainbow, shamrock, snakes



Across

2. Fable claims Saint Patrick drove these out of Ireland.
4. Three leafed clover and symbol of Ireland.
6. The Gaelic translation for this word is shoemaker.
7. Four leafed versions of these are considered lucky.
9. Contents of a leprechaun's pot.
12. A colour of green and also a gemstone.
13. Irish dance
14. Traditional Irish musical instrument.

Down

1. Patron saint of Ireland.
3. Colorful arch in the sky.
5. People kiss this stone for luck.
8. Saint Patrick's Day colour.
10. Capital city of Ireland.
11. Saint Patrick's Day month.



(continued from page 1)

scavenger hunt. By visiting each country, your passport will be stamped. We have presentations, dancing, or songs scheduled for the tonight. Please stop in and see how wonderful and diverse Emerson-Williams is.

Our **Boon Supply fundraiser** will make its way to teacher mailboxes in March. If you're not familiar, Boon Supply was known as Mixed Bags. They have all sorts of eco-friendly products, family items, travel items, reusable grocery bags, and even a kitchen catalog. I purchased the reusable grocery bags and absolutely love them; I can't wait to buy more. I've even received some great compliments on them... for grocery bags. Say whaa?

It's about that time for WSPC's Volunteer award. This award offers us a chance to stop to reflect and recognize the contributions that many of our volunteers make. If you know of a volunteer at your school who deserves such recognition for all their hard work and contributions, please fill

out the form or just email a message to your WSPC chair person that you would like to nominate that person. You can use the form located in this addition of Tiger Topics or simply send an email to wspc.committee@ewpto.com; include why you think this person should be nominated. **A vote will take place during our March PTO meeting on March 12th.**

The PTO budget committee will meet in the upcoming months and presented at our May meeting; the new budget is adopted at the June meeting. If you would like to participate, please visit our website at <https://www.ewpto.com/what-we-do/> and click on the budget 'sign up for committee' button. Additionally, the **PTO is looking for members to chair the nominations committee** to assist in finding next year's board members. If you are interested, please contact the board at ptoboard@ewpto.com. **Nominations will be presented at the May meeting and voted in at the June meeting.**

If you haven't been to our last PTO meeting or seen our PTO blast and

Facebook posts, Ms. Thakur spoke about the current 2020/2021 school district budget that Mr. Emmett presented to the Board of Education (BOE). By reducing the budget, there is not enough to keep contractual obligations intact; staffing cuts must occur. Additionally reductions may be asked at the Town Council meeting.

If you are concerned with more proposed budget cuts which affect our children's education, please let your voice be heard; email the Board of Education and Town Council. We appreciate any support you are able make in the hopes that our children, staff and schools don't feel any more negative impacts from the budget cuts. Generic wording is available on page 3 if you're not sure what to say. Or you can email ptoboard@ewpto.com and we'll happily send it your way.

So that's all I got. I hope to see you at Cultural Night... I'll be the one sampling yummy goodness from all around the world. Feed me.



Emerson-Williams' Families,
 come enjoy
 a worldly experience at

**Cultural Night
 Friday,
 March 6**

**6:30pm to
 8:30pm**

E-W Gymnasium

Come experience the culture
 and diversity of
 Emerson-Williams



Help Your School Earn More!

Check out our NEW everyday offer: Registered users get 40 Digital Bonus Box Tops when they buy 6 participating items. or Get 20, Buy 4 or Get 2, Buy 1 This is exclusive to *ShopRite* shoppers and Price Plus® Card holders.

Register with ShopRiteForMySchool.com to take advantage of it!

How It Works

Register Link your Price Plus© club card to *ShopRite For My School* and select the school you wish to support. 2. Shop Purchase *ShopRite For My School* participating products to earn Digital Bonus Box Tops and help us give more cash to local schools. 3. Earn Digital Bonus Box Tops earnings are automatically credited to your participating school's account.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Simply visit www.shopriteformyschool.com to set up your profile. Once you've chosen your Box Tops eligible school and linked your Price Plus® Club Card you're set up to start earning Box Tops for your school whenever you shop for participating products. Beginning July 29th, ALL General Mills Products are eligible for *ShopRite For My School*!



Saint Patrick's Day Word Search

V G D H V C T Z K Q W P V A R
X Z L U S I F O S Y O C Q D Q
Y C E Q B P A N O T B N B R Z
L E P E H L A H O Q N J V A K
N L R U K K I F S E I X C C O
A T E J E C G N E I A M I L I
N I C S X O I R P Y R R T U D
F C H M L N G R V R T I N A S
A A A D J S I H E A H E I N N
N T U X Z M D F P M W P A V L
N D N E G E L W N B I U S U P
N T J W W K L Q U C H L Y U P
J B Q A P F Z O K U N Q O J X
I W I N B I R E L A N D G S Y
J D C K C O R M A H S Y B Z X



CELTIC
IRELAND
LEPRECHAUN
POTOFGOLD
SHAMROCK

DUBLIN
IRISH
LIMERICK
RAINBOW
SNAKES

GREEN
LEGEND
PATRICK
SAINT





We're participating in the

Community Bag Program



**Month of
February**

We will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is sold this month at the Stop & Shop located at:

**Stop and Shop
80 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Wethersfield Schools Parent Council (WSPC)
Volunteer Recognition Awards
2019-20 Nomination Form

The WSPC Recognition Awards is intended to recognize individuals and organizations who have made a volunteer commitment to benefit the education or social experience of the children in the Wethersfield public school system. Each year, the WSPC recognizes: one individual from each public school for our Individual Award, and one individual (or organization) for our Community Award.

If you would like to nominate an individual or organization that has involved themselves above and beyond the expected role and is thereby identified as an asset to your school and/or the Wethersfield community through their efforts and/or volunteerism, please fill out the information below:

I would like to nominate _____

Nominee's Email Address: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone #: _____

Type of Nomination: ____ **Individual Award** ____ **Community Award**

Does this person have children? If so, please list their names and schools they attend:

List volunteer committees this nominee serves on:

(please add pages as necessary)

I feel this nominee meets the requirements for this year's WSPC Recognition Award because:

(please add pages as necessary)

Your Name: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Address and Cell Phone Number: _____

**WSPC reserves the right to evaluate and approve each application to ensure nominees meet all requirements.

Nominations for the 2019-2020 WSPC Recognition Awards should be returned to your WSPC school representative by/before the March PTO meeting. Please plan to attend that meeting to support your nomination. Or submit this form to your school in an envelope marked "WSPC Volunteer Award."

WSPC Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony will be held: Wednesday, April 29th at 7pm, Webb Auditorium