

## Welcome Families!

*Get to know the PTO Board!*



Hi EW Families! My name is Sarah and I am the 2nd Year President of the PTO. I was born and raised in Wethersfield and an EW Tiger myself. I moved back to Wethersfield and bought my familial home about 3 years ago with my son Zach, who is a 6th grader this year. I work from home as Senior Project Manager for a large insurance company doing migrations of 401k plans. My house is ALWAYS filled with a lot of activity-I live with my boyfriend Christopher, Zach, 2 bonus children part time and 3 small dogs - so there is always some form of excitement in the Hughes house! I am looking forward to a great year, we have a wonderfully awesome board in place and I think we will accomplish some great things for the staff and students.



Hello! My name is Katherine, and I'm excited to be serving as the PTO's 1<sup>st</sup> Year President. I'm an audit partner at a regional CPA firm, where I focus on municipal audits. Originally from Eastern Connecticut, I've called Wethersfield home for the past 10 years with my husband, Chris. We have two children—James, a 2nd grader at EW, and Madeleine, who is starting pre-K 3 this fall. This is my second year on the board, after serving as treasurer last year, and I'm really looking forward to working alongside our wonderful board members, school staff, and EW families to make this a great year!

*FOLLOW US!*

Facebook

Website



[ptoboard@ewpto.com](mailto:ptoboard@ewpto.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**September 1**  
No School

**September 5**  
Dinner on the Lawn  
6:00 - 8:00pm

**September 8**  
EWPTO Meeting  
6:30pm

**September 16**  
Town-Wide Referendum

**September 17**  
Open House  
5:45-6:15pm - Gr. K-2  
6:15-6:45pm - Non-Class  
Teachers  
6:45-7:15 pm - Gr. 3-6

**September 19 & 20**  
Savers Fundraiser

**October 1**  
Minimum School Day  
Bike/Walk Day

**October 6**  
Picture Day  
Gr. K-2

**October 8**  
Picture Day  
Gr. 3-6

## Get to know the PTO Board!



My name is Katrina Ross and this is my first year working with the EW PTO. My wife and I moved to Wethersfield in December of 2023 and we are loving getting to know the town and building a community here in Connecticut. Our son Luke is a 5th grader at EW, and our daughter Nora is 3 and can't wait to start school like her big brother! I am a partner at the Woolf & Ross Law Firm in East Hartford and when not working I love spending time outdoors with my family. I am very excited to be more involved in EW in the coming years and I look forward to serving the students and staff at EW as your Treasurer.

Hi! I'm Nicole Wante, and I'm excited to get more involved this year as the PTO Secretary. I'm a school psychologist at a nearby elementary school, and I'm passionate about supporting children and families and building strong connections within the community.

I'm also a proud mom to Ben, a 2nd grader, and Emma, who's 4. Our family has lived in Wethersfield since 2016, and we truly love being part of the community. My husband, Chris, is an architect who can always be found working on some kind of renovation project around the house. In my free time, I enjoy running, reading, and spending time with friends and family.



Hey, families! I'm Lauren Rhines, helping with website and communications for the PTO this year! I'm mom to Jackson in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Madelyn in 7<sup>th</sup>. My husband and I are both from CT and moved to Wethersfield 6 years ago because it's the town where my in-laws grew up (they met at WHS!). In our 25 years together, we've both made an effort to establish connection to the communities where we live. I'm a past EWPTO president, past board member of Wethersfield Moms Group; current Vice-Chair of the School Building Committee; among other groups throughout the years. I am also the Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Newington.





## JOIN US!

The EWPTO is organized for the purpose of supporting the education of the children of Emerson-Williams Elementary School by fostering relationships between the school, parents/legal guardians, and teachers. We strive to create an environment that fosters parental involvement to help build a better educational experience for our children, and, that promotes a community where our staff is supported through our resources and volunteer hours.



## HAVE YOU VISITED THE PTO WEBSITE YET?

Our site, [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com), is your one-stop shop for all things PTO and school happenings! There you'll find:

- Upcoming **meeting dates** (plus minutes if you missed one)
- **Committee sign-ups** to get involved
- **Membership and sponsorship** opportunities
- Current and past **newsletters**
- Our handy **Digital Backpack** with flyers and updates
- The **school calendar** with PTO events, fundraisers, and spirit days
- Helpful **links to other school groups**



Take a look and bookmark it—you'll always be in the loop!



## CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Fall Book Fair Cancellation / Spring Book Fair:**

We're sad to share that we won't be able to hold a Fall Book Fair this year due to a shortage of volunteers to make it happen. The good news is—we're planning on bringing it back in the spring! To make the Spring Book Fair a success, we'll need committee members who are able to assist with collaborating with the book vendor, setting up the fair, advertising the event, and assisting children and families with purchasing books. Please note that much of this time occurs during the school day. If you are able to help you can sign up here:

(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044faaa82dabff2-book#/>) or reach out to [bookfair.committee@ewpto.com](mailto:bookfair.committee@ewpto.com) with any questions. Please help us make this event a success in the spring!

Committee Chairs Needed! Email [ptoboard@ewpto.com](mailto:ptoboard@ewpto.com) for more info:

- **Tiger Trot**
- **Cheer Committee Co-Chair Needed**
- **Holiday Store**
- **Kindness Week**
- **Volunteers Needed**
  - **School Pictures** are on 10/6 and 10/8 and volunteers are needed from 8:00 – 12:00 p.m. each day.



**Are you a business owner?  
Do you know a local business owner?  
Grow your business with the help of EW PTO!**

**Stripes Package: \$150**

Includes business card on EW PTO website, featured on our Facebook page, and included in at least 5 Tiger Topics newsletters. Plus featured in emails to parents and in our Sponsorship Spotlight.

**Tigress Package: \$100**

Business card on EW PTO website, and featured in emails to parents.

**Cub Package: \$25**

Business card on EW PTO website.

To reserve your ad space, email

[2yrpres@ewpto.com](mailto:2yrpres@ewpto.com)

We accept business cards or jpeg/pdf files  
Checks payable to Emerson-Williams PTO  
or use the QR code to send via PayPal

Send to:

EW PTO

461 Wells Rd.

Wethersfield, CT 06109

Attn: Treasurer





**SO MANY REASONS TO JOIN THE EWPTO - HERE ARE A FEW:**

-  **Your children benefit** - Research shows that participating in your child's school and showing engagement helps them perform better academically.
-  **The school benefits** - PTO supports Emerson-Williams staff, which in turn creates a positive and caring environment for our school community.
-  **You benefit** - Joining allows you to make connections with other parents and staff; and volunteering is fun and rewarding!



**NEXT STEPS:**

**BECOME A MEMBER:**

Join the PTO by returning this form to your child's teacher, or by completing the form online <https://www.ewpto.com/membership/>. It's free to join! But if you can....

**DONATE TO THE PTO (CIRCLE ONE):**

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE & ANY DONATION ENTERS YOU INTO OUR DRAWING FOR 4 FRONT-ROW SEATS AT THE WINTER CONCERT!!

**\$ \_\_\_\_** Here is my donation! I'm excited to be a member and continue to support EW! I'll still fundraise throughout the year!

**\$25** - For what I would have spent on cookie dough.

**\$50** - Anything ending in "thon" is not in my vocabulary.

**\$75** - I want to walk into local businesses without asking for raffle donations.

**\$100+** - Please accept my gratitude for being exempt from baking, selling, or cleaning up anything this year!

Please make all **checks payable to EWPTO**, or, **PayPal to the PTO using the QR Code above please label "membership"**

Deadline to be entered in the drawing is **October 10th**.

Questions: [ptoboard@ewpto.com](mailto:ptoboard@ewpto.com)

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Children can be listed on the back side.

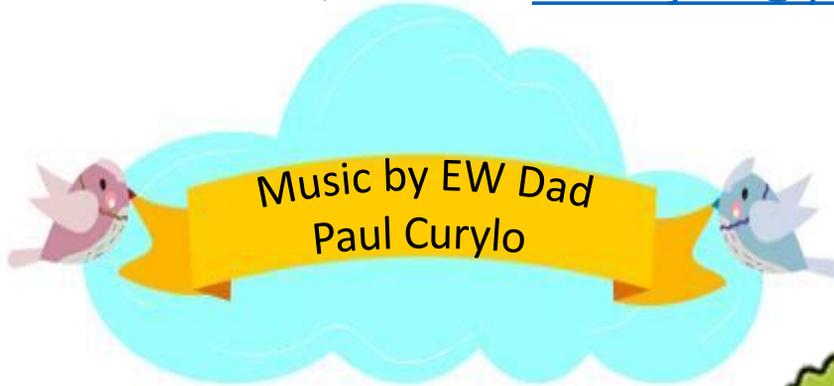
# DINNER ON THE LAWN

Organized by the EWPTO

Friday, September 5th  
6-8pm

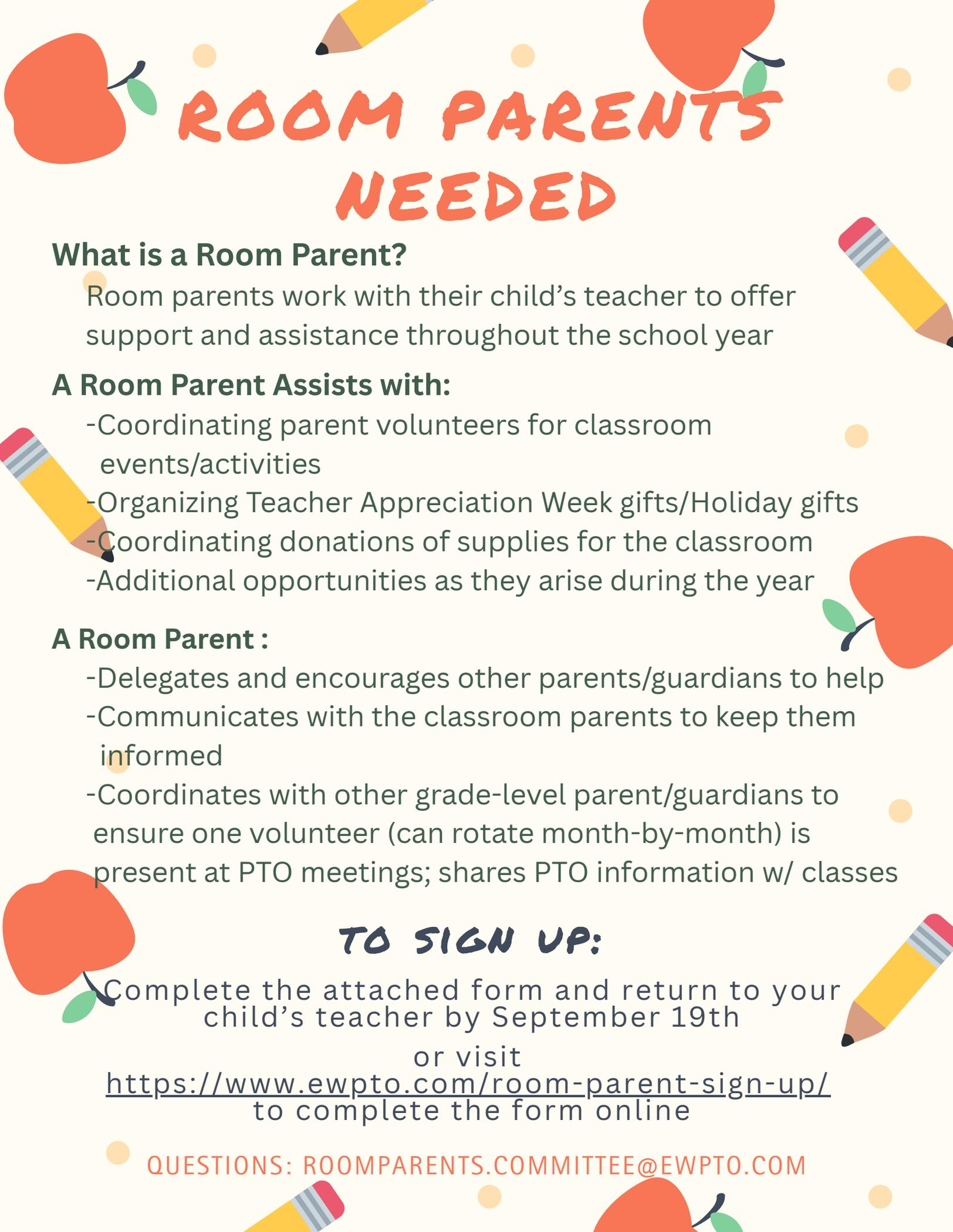
Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy a night of  
dining al fresco!

Questions: [laurenjisk@yahoo.com](mailto:laurenjisk@yahoo.com)



There will be no access inside the school; no bathrooms will be available.

Please leave all non-service pets at home



# ROOM PARENTS NEEDED

## What is a Room Parent?

Room parents work with their child's teacher to offer support and assistance throughout the school year

## A Room Parent Assists with:

- Coordinating parent volunteers for classroom events/activities
- Organizing Teacher Appreciation Week gifts/Holiday gifts
- Coordinating donations of supplies for the classroom
- Additional opportunities as they arise during the year

## A Room Parent :

- Delegates and encourages other parents/guardians to help
- Communicates with the classroom parents to keep them informed
- Coordinates with other grade-level parent/guardians to ensure one volunteer (can rotate month-by-month) is present at PTO meetings; shares PTO information w/ classes

## TO SIGN UP:

Complete the attached form and return to your child's teacher by September 19th

or visit

<https://www.ewpto.com/room-parent-sign-up/>  
to complete the form online

QUESTIONS: [ROOMPARENTS.COMMITTEE@EWPTO.COM](mailto:ROOMPARENTS.COMMITTEE@EWPTO.COM)

# Room Parent form

Please complete and return by September 19th to your child's teacher

Yes, I want to be an Emerson-Williams Room Parent!

Parent Name:

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Parent Phone Number:

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Parent Email:

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Student 1 Name:

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Student 1 Teacher and Grade:

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Student 2 Name:

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Student 2 Teacher and Grade:

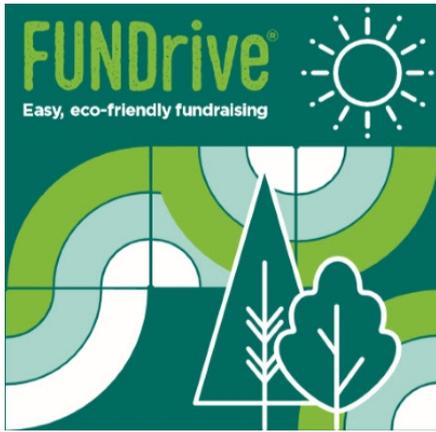
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Student 3 Name:

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Student 3 Teacher and Grade:

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**FUNDrive® Coordinator**

Sarrah Hughes

sarrah.hughes@gmail.com

**Our Goal:** \$1500

577 Tall Kitchen Bags (avg. 13 lbs.)

113 Medium boxes (household goods)

**Fundraiser Dates:**

08/01/2025 - 09/20/2025

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## Clean out your closets for Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Inc!

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Please save all gently used items - clothing and textiles in garbage bags. Small household goods and books will need to be in boxes

### We Are Collecting

#### Clothes

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

#### Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

#### Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

#### Books & Media

paperback, hard cover - all genres

*\*media needs to be boxed separately*

*\*no encyclopedias or text books*

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.



*FUNDrive® is an eco-friendly fundraiser for nonprofit organizations. Collect gently-used items in your community and FUNDrive® will buy them.*

Visit <https://FUNDrive.savers.com> to learn more.

