



# It comes from us



## Connect:

Learn about social gatherings, school events & ways that you can help.

- Read Friday's **WES Newsletter**
- Like us on 
- Follow us on 
- Email us: [info@wespto.info](mailto:info@wespto.info)
- Visit our website: [wespto.info](http://wespto.info)

*An hour of your time can make a difference!*

# Welcome!

## WES Basics

Sept. 2017-18



PTO EVENTS CALENDAR • WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL INFO  
 LOST & FOUND! • TRANSPORTATION CHANGES  
 PARKING/DROP-OFF RULES • WORDS ARE WONDERFUL INFO  
 CLOTHING SALE • BOXTOPS • RECYCLED READS

**Williamstown Elementary School**

115 Church Street, Williamstown T: 413.458.5707 F: 413.458.3287

Web: [wespto.info](http://wespto.info) Email: [info@wespto.info](mailto:info@wespto.info) READ YOUR FRIDAY WES NEWSLETTER  

# WES PTO provides important support

The PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization) exists to help you, your child's teachers, the school, and the community enhance your child's experience at WES. Last year the PTO contributed almost \$30,000 to fund special events and projects in and out of the classroom. Over \$15,000 was to teacher and specialist support alone. We also make sure every child, regardless of ability to pay, can participate in music programs and field trips, has a snack each day, can participate in Adventures in Learning, and is able to take home a free book or two each year. We fund scholarships, replace playground equipment, bring authors and performers to the school, and so much more.

## Welcome

Simply through having a child enrolled at WES, **you are a member of the PTO** and are welcomed and encouraged to attend any and all meetings and to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and online. We meet monthly, generally following drop-off on the first Tuesday of the month, and we vary our meetings quarterly to accommodate different parent schedules. Additionally, all our meeting agendas and minutes are posted online, so you can email us your ideas about an upcoming discussion and stay informed even if you can't attend a meeting. You can also email us any questions you might have that another WES parent might be able to answer. We're here to help!

# YOU ARE THE PTO



# BECOME INVOLVED!

First, **stay informed!** Please read the Friday WES Newsletter, emails from the school, and emails from the PTO and from Room Parents. If you take those few moments to read your email, you'll never miss an event or be unaware of an opportunity to help. PTO meeting agendas and minutes and all PTO events are also published on our website: wespto.info. You can find a link to the PTO website under the "Be Involved" tab on the WES homepage. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



As you're able, **participate in our fundraisers.** Donate outgrown clothes and then come stock up at a clothing sale, buy some books at the book fair, send in boxtops, purchase school photos, sponsor kids in the Walk for WES, and attend pizza dinners and pancake breakfasts.

Last, but certainly not least, **volunteer your time.** There are always opportunities to sign up for an hour of helping here and there without making an extensive commitment, but there are also opportunities for leadership. You can serve as a Room Parent or join a planning team for one of our many events. Each of our leadership teams is headed by two co-coordinators, so nobody needs to do a job alone, and there's continuity of leadership when people decide to step down. You can find out more information about which positions we're looking to fill on our website, through our emails, or through the WES Newsletter. If you're interested in helping, even for just an hour or two, please send us an email at info@wespto.info or come to a PTO meeting.

## PARENT/TEACHER SOCIALS

Our socials provide a way for you to meet other parents and teachers you may not have had an opportunity to encounter before. Sometimes it's hard to meet people outside of your regular social circle, but these gatherings are a chance to do just that and to broaden our sense of community. When held in restaurants in the evening (with finger food and soft drinks provided), babysitting is available either for free or for a nominal fee.



**Friday**  
**OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**6–9pm**

**You're invited** to the next social at Water Street Grill. Free babysitting will be provided at the Williamstown Community Preschool, but you must

register ahead of time. Watch the newsletter for more information. The PTO will provide finger food and soft drinks. The restaurant menu is available for those who'd like to order additional items. Come have a nice, relaxing evening so you can get up the next morning ready to stock up at the Clothing Sale!

## 2017–18 PTO EVENTS

Below are some of the PTO events that happen every year.

### SEPTEMBER

Watermelon Welcome  
Open House  
School Picture Days  
Boxtops contest

### OCTOBER

Walk to School Day  
Fall Clothing Sale  
Fall Parent/Teacher Social  
Words Are Wonderful Week  
Grand Book Fair Night  
Pizza Dinner—6th grade fundraiser

### NOVEMBER

Veteran's Day Concert—Auditorium  
*Parent Conferences*

### DECEMBER

Holiday Craft Fair  
Cape Cod Café—6th grade fundraiser

### JANUARY

Adventures in Learning  
Geo Bee (grades 4–6)

### FEBRUARY

Boxtops contest

### MARCH

Spring Parent/Teacher Social  
*Parent Conferences*  
Art to Remember fundraiser  
Student Author Night

### APRIL

4th Grade Shakespeare Play  
Camp Fair  
Pancake Breakfast—3rd grade fundraiser

### MAY

Staff Appreciation Week  
6th grade musical  
Spring Clothing Sale

### JUNE

3rd grade Deerfield trip  
Kindergarten Orientation  
6th grade Cape Cod trip  
Recycled Reads  
Family/Teacher Social  
Field Day & Walk for WES  
Bike to School Day  
6th grade graduation

# 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

School lets out at 1:30pm EVERY Wednesday.

July 17						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 17						
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## 2017-2018

### WES School Year Calendar

September 17						
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October 17						
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November 17						
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December 17						
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January 18						
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February 18						
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March 18						
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April 18						
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May 18						
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30	31					

June 18						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Information						
<b>Phone Numbers:</b>						
Main Office:	458-5707					
Special Ed.	458-3798					
District:	458-9582 ext. 161					

Hours						
<b>Office Hours:</b>						
8:00 am - 4:00 pm						
<b>Student Hours:</b>						
8:35 am - 3:05 pm						
<i>Dismissed at 1:30pm on Wednesdays</i>						

Last day - noon dismissal

1st Day for Staff - Aug 31 (PD)
1st Day for Students - Sept 5th
1st Day S x S & Kindergarten Sept 11
Anticipated Last Day K-6 - June 15 (Last Day K-6 - NOON DISMISSAL)
Last Day SxS - June 14
Possible Snow Day Make-ups
Indicates 1:30 dismissal
Indicates 12:00 dismissal

<b>School Closed:</b>
Sept 1 - No school/1st day on 5th
Sept 4 - Labor Day
Oct 9 - Columbus Day
Nov 10 - Veteran's Day
Nov 22 - 1/2 Day Noon Dismissal
Nov 23-24 - Thanksgiving Break
Dec 25 - Jan 1 - Winter Break
Jan 15 - MLK Day
Feb 19-23 - February Break
April 16-20 - April Break
May 28 - Memorial Day

<b>School Closed:</b>
Professional Development
October 6 - Staff/PD
November 7 - County PD
June 18th (or day after last day of school if there are snow days)
PD Day - Staff

Calendars by Vertex42.com

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## L ST & FOUND

The lost and found is located directly inside the School Street entrance. PTO volunteers, teachers, paraprofessionals, custodial staff, and other children all do a wonderful job of bringing in abandoned items, so it is worth looking there whenever your child loses something. Check quickly, though. The lost and found is emptied regularly. Deadline dates are published in the WES newsletter. After the deadline date, lost and found items go into the clothing sale stock or are donated. Please educate your child about the lost and found. Let your child know that it's important to try to find things that have been lost rather than replacing them without making the effort. Featured items are often displayed on the student written and presented WKZ News, which the students see in school and which you can see on the school website.

## Getting your kids to and from school:

### Your assigned school bus rules

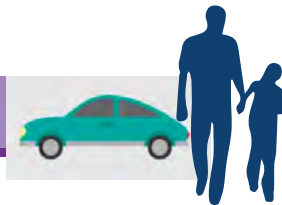


K-2nd graders who ride busses must be delivered to the bus by a parent and picked up from the bus by a parent. If someone other than a child's parent will be meeting the child at the bus stop, that needs to be pre-arranged with the bus driver in writing. If there is no parent or pre-authorized adult at the bus stop, your K-2nd grader will be taken back to the school, and the school will contact you and, if necessary, those you have designated as emergency contacts. Don't worry! Your children will always be safe and in good hands!

## Any un-assigned school bus rules

If your K–2nd grader needs to take a different bus or get off at a different stop (for a play date, for example) the **parents of BOTH children need to send written notes** to their respective classroom teachers so they know which bus the child will be taking, with which friend, from which class, and who the adult will be who is taking charge of the child when s/he gets off the bus. Older children may ride home with friends as long as you have sent your written permission to your child's teacher before the date of travel.

## Driving and Walking to and from school



If you drive your child to school and need to walk your child into the classroom, you must park your car in a parking spot. You may only use the drop-off lane (the fire lane alongside the Youth Center in the School Street parking lot) if your child can exit the car independently and walk to the classroom unaccompanied. Please see the section on Drop-off rules below.

Make sure to let your child's teacher and the office know, in writing, and as far in advance as possible if there is a change to your usual plan for the end of the day. If you communicate well in advance, email is fine. Please note that **same day changes are strongly discouraged**. However, if unforeseen circumstances arise that necessitate a same-day change, **please call the office at the start of the school day**. Conveying changes in plans to teachers once the school day has begun is both difficult for office staff and an interruption to classroom teaching and should be avoided if at all possible. Please do not email same-day changes. Email is not a safe way to communicate such critical information.

If your child is a “walker” and doesn't ride the bus, your K – 2nd grade teacher will deliver your child to you outside the School Street exit at the end of the day.

Please be aware that **between 9am and 2:30pm all entry to the school must be at the Church Street entrance**. Ring the buzzer to the right of the doors, and the office will release the door lock. You'll hear a click, and you'll then be able to open the door. When you visit the school during the day you must sign in with the office and get a nametag to wear during your visit. Then sign out when you leave.

## Drop-off rules: NEED TO KNOW!

The drop-off lane is only for students who are able to exit the vehicle quickly and completely independently. **You must park if you need to get out of your car** to help unbuckle a car seat, get your child's backpack or other equipment, give a hug or kiss goodbye, or linger to watch your child enter the building. (You will see parents violating this rule. Please don't be one of them!)

Drop-off may happen only in the fire lane, and no car may block the handicapped spaces or crosswalks. **(This happens frequently, and, like blocking a fire lane, it is illegal.)** The **Williamstown Police Department does issue tickets** to drivers who violate the fire lane/drop-off rules, so if you want or need to leave your car for any reason, please use a parking space and avoid a citation. Having said that, even kindergarteners who are able to unbuckle themselves and take charge of their own equipment do participate in drop-off and enjoy the independence of walking into school alone, and they are allowed to do so as soon as they know their way to their classroom.



# PTO Collection Drives benefit every child

The **PTO bulletin board** is located near the main office across from the stairwell and elevator. This is also **where book donations, boxtops, and clothing sale donations are collected.**



You may drop off **gently-used clothing** donations any time throughout the academic year. We hold clothing sales in the fall and spring and sometimes hold a special holiday sale.

There is a **boxtops collection bin**, but you may want to save your boxtops for a contest. Throughout the year grades, classrooms, or individuals compete to see who can collect the most boxtops, and the winners receive a prize. Make sure you identify your child's name, grade, and classroom teacher to get credit in these contests.

**Recycled Reads** is a program that makes sure every child gets a book at the book fair in October as part of our Words Are Wonderful celebration as well as at the end of the year. You may **donate books to this program any time** throughout the academic year.

# WAW: Words Are Wonderful



WAW is a week-long celebration of the written word. Authors come to the school, give assembly presentations, and work directly with the children. Members of the community read in each classroom. First graders and up attend a performance at the '62 Center. There are often after-school events at the school, at the Milne Public Library, and at other local venues. As part of WAW, we partner with Scholastic books for a book fair that takes place in our auditorium both during and after school hours. Families can purchase books and raise money for the school, and the Recycled Reads program ensures that every child goes home with a book. (See about donating to that program above.) The WAW **character costume parade** is widely attended by the whole community. Children dress as a favorite word, story, or character, the WES band plays music, and the whole school makes a parade loop on Church Street. Keep an eye out for more information about WAW in the fall through Room Parent emails and the WES newsletter.

*Welcome*  
to WES and the PTO!

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