

ECS/WIS PTO News

Edna C. Stevens School and Woodside Intermediate School Parent Teacher Organization

September 2009

Next PTO Meeting

Wed Sept. 23
7:00 pm
ECS
All-Purpose Room

All are Welcome!

The classroom with the most attendees will win a \$20 Scholastic voucher for their teacher!

Important DATE!

9/8
Fall Fundraiser begins

9/14
Kindergarten Orientation

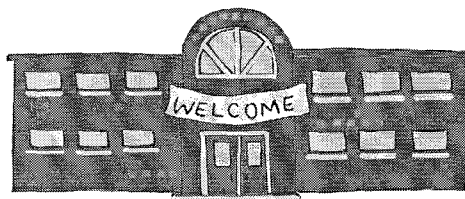
9/23
PTO Meeting



SAVE YOUR
BOXTOPS!

BOXTOPS = \$\$
for our schools.
For more info,
see your Tickets
for Time booklet.

WELCOME TO THE ECS/WIS PARENT/ TEACHER ORGANIZATION!



We hope you all enjoyed your summer and are excited for a new school year. We would like to introduce ourselves as the new ECS/WIS PTO Board. We are planning for another fun filled year packed with many activities including Book Fairs, Shop 'Til You Drop, and the School Fair, just to name a few. To find out more about us and our upcoming events, please come to our PTO meetings. These meetings are a great way to get involved in school activities and meet new people.

We would like to use email as our primary line of communication to notify parents about upcoming events and the need for volunteers for certain events. If you would like to be part of the ECS/WIS PTO email list, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return to your child's teacher no later than September 30th.

We hope to see you at our first meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 7pm in the ECS All Purpose Room.

Michele & Jen

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the outgoing board of the PTO: **Jen Tine, Jen Slifer** and **Laura Biancucci**. Through your leadership the PTO has continued to be a successful and vital resource to our

schools, teachers and students. We thank you for the countless hours you dedicated to this organization!

The new Board charged with filling these BIG shoes are:



Co-President: Michele Budzik moved to Cromwell 5 years ago with husband Tony and has a child in each of the Cromwell Schools—Christian (9th grade), Madalyn (6th grade), Noah (4th grade) and Sadie (2nd grade). Michele has been active in PTO and the classrooms over the past 4 years, most recently as a substitute teacher at ECS and WIS.

Co-President: Jen Corcoran has been involved in PTO and classroom activities for the past 4 years. She has 2 children Kelsea (4th grade) and Ryan (2nd grade). She is looking forward to leading the PTO along with Michele.

Treasurer: Lisa Bucher moved to Cromwell in 1999 and has two boys in the school system - Matt in 8th grade and Kyle in 4th grade. She has been in the accounting/budget field for over 17 years and currently works at Central CT State University in the Budget Department.

Secretary: Julie Schmidt has two boys in Cromwell schools—Kyle (8th grade) and Nathan (3rd). Since 1999, she has been involved in many different PTO activities, but currently serves as co-chair for Tickets for Time and Shop 'til You Drop.

FAQs about the PTO

What does it mean to be a member of the PTO? That depends on you. We invite you to become an active participant in your student's education by being an active participant in the ECS/WIS PTO. Parents, grandparents, neighbors, and siblings, we need your help! The level of involvement is up to you!

Why should I be a participating member? Participation through volunteering allows you to be "hands on" with your student's education. All research indicates that when families are involved, a child is more apt to get higher grades, be more likely to graduate, and go on to college.

Participation through attendance at PTO meetings gives you a voice. You help decide what we do as a group. You help decide where the money should go. If you are new to the Edna Stevens or Woodside Schools, the established families are available to answer questions and ease your transition into becoming a school family. If you are new to our community, we're always happy to help wherever possible. An added bonus is that you have the opportunity to meet wonderful people who can become great friends.

What are the benefits of membership? The benefits of membership are very rewarding. You have the knowledge that, with your participation and involvement, the educational and social experiences of all students at our elementary schools have been greatly enhanced. That is in addition to the benefits above.

Isn't the PTO only about fundraising? The PTO is *more* than just fundraising. Fundraising is really just a necessary evil as school budgets are requiring more and more cuts. It is our privilege that we are able to provide the supplies, equipment and activities that our school budgets can no longer cover. We are only able to do that through our ECS and WIS families willingness to participate in our fundraisers. Book Fairs, Fall Fundraiser, Grinder Night and Shop 'til You Drop are just some of the ways we raise money. This past year, our PTO was able to make a \$15,000 contribution to help to support the new playground to be built at ECS.



A big THANK YOU to Carol Cambareri and Suzanne Lombardo for all their work coordinating the Welcome Back Luncheon for our ECS/WIS faculty & staff over the years. This year they passed the torch to the capable hands of Carol Dewey, Karen Jordan and Leslie Person. The luncheon on

8/31 was a huge success! Thank you, ladies, for a job well done! *Thank you to all who contributed by providing something for this special event!*

REMEMBER TO REVIEW YOUR TICKETS FOR TIME BOOKLET!

The success of the PTO also depends on the contributions of time from the families of our students. Please fill out a ticket or two for your time. Some of our students' favorite events, such as the school fair, depend on the help of many, *many* volunteers.
Tickets are due Friday, September 18th!

PTO is online! Check us out!



You can find all of our events and lots more about the ECS/WIS PTO by logging on to the website. Go to the district website: **www.cromwell.k12.ct.us** Select your school (ECS or WIS). Then, on the left side of the school page you can click on the ECS/WIS PTO link to our website. OR, use the direct address: below. Save this webpage in your favorites to have immediate access to PTO events calendar, PTO forms, PTO contacts, PTO announcements and more!

<http://www.cromwell.k12.ct.us/ecs/site/files/ecswispto-eboard.pdf>



The PTO is going to try to save costs, paper and our environment in the coming year by moving towards electronic newsletters and communications for events, etc. You can support these efforts by providing an email address below.

Please return the form below to your child's teacher by 9/30!

ECS/WIS PTO Email List (please place completed form in envelope labeled PTO and return to teacher)

Parents' Name _____

Parents' Email _____

Child#1 Name _____ Child#2 Name _____ Child#3 Name _____

Teacher _____ Teacher _____ Teacher _____