

# PTO INFO TO KNOW

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[www.westford.com/westelmpto](http://www.westford.com/westelmpto)

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Avery Adam & Kristi Bates | [WEPTOPresident@gmail.com](mailto:WEPTOPresident@gmail.com)

As newly elected WEPTO Co-Presidents, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 2014-15 school year. This is Westford Elementary PTO's (WEPTO's) 15<sup>th</sup> year as a town-wide organization, representing all 6 Westford elementary schools. It is the mission of the WEPTO to sponsor a variety of enrichment programs to enhance our children's learning experience and to support our schools and their staff.

WEPTO is a non-profit organization made up of all parents and guardians of Westford Elementary school students and Westford Elementary teachers and administrators. You are ALREADY a member if you have a child or children attending any of the six K-5 elementary schools. There are no membership dues and everyone is encouraged to volunteer and participate whenever possible.

WEPTO's main goal is to support K-5 students and their curricula through vibrant Arts & Education Programming (AEP). With your support, WEPTO has brought many wonderful programs into our schools such as Art of Making Honeybees, the Helen Keller live historical performance, Day in Ghana, Techsplorations, Wingmasters: "World of Owls" and authors Emilie Boone and Julie Berry. Last year, WEPTO was able to fund more than 200 small-group, hands-on educational programs to enhance individual learning. Other successful WEPTO programs include Math & Science Nights and the Star Reader reading incentive program. WEPTO also provides funds to school libraries, school principals, the Living Lab science and math exploration facility located at the Day School, the Westford Parent Connection and the Westford Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

WEPTO Executive Board meetings take place 4 times each academic year and are open to the public. Our first meeting this year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Millenium Building. Please visit our website for a listing of additional meetings and events. We invite you to attend.

WEPTO is a success because of your generous participation. Thanks to your time and financial contributions, WEPTO is enhancing the learning experience for your child and other Westford children. Thank you for your continued support of WEPTO, and we look forward to a successful school year!



*~ Avery & Kristi*

## Sign up to Receive WEPTO News!

Our members have told us they prefer to receive WEPTO news via email and online. We also send information home in backpacks, but our primary form of communication is electronic media.

Look for the WEPTO logo, shown above, for detailed information on WEPTO-sponsored events and activities.

To ensure you don't miss any important information, sign up at [www.westfordk12.us/subscriber.shtml](http://www.westfordk12.us/subscriber.shtml) (select PTO News and follow the instructions on the page) to receive all WEPTO flyers, news feeds, the monthly "PTO Info to Know" newsletter and other electronic news from your school. **Important:** Don't forget to reply to the confirmation email you receive after you send your request.

## Like WEPTO on Facebook!!

The WEPTO is now on **Facebook**. Like us to hear about current events and volunteer opportunities.

[www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto](http://www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto)



## ABOUT WEPTO

### WEPTO is a non-profit organization.

All donations are 100% tax deductible and 100% of proceeds directly benefit the WEPTO. Many employers match charitable donations. Consider checking with your employer to see if they offer this benefit.

### Student Directory

#### No Charge for 2014-2015 Directory

WEPTO creates and distributes a **Student Directory** in an electronic PDF format that includes all 6 elementary schools. A PDF is a "Portable Document File" that allows the document to go from one computer to another without changing the formatting of the document. Parents will have the ability to view and/or print the pages of their choosing. We are happy to announce that there will be **NO CHARGE** for this year's directory.



Similar to last year, parents enter their contact information online but this year there will be **no fee** to get your PDF copy of the directory! Additional information will be coming home in your child(ren)'s backpack(s).

## STAY CONNECTED!

**Facebook:** "Like" WEPTO to hear about events and volunteer opportunities. [www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto](http://www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto)

**Email:** For all WEPTO fliers, news, Info to Know Newsletter, visit [www.westfordk12.us/subscriber](http://www.westfordk12.us/subscriber) and select PTO News.



## Become a Volunteer – Why YOU Should Get Involved Today!

As you can see, the WEPTO is a busy group. **We need your help, and so do your children.** We have many different volunteer activities, some home-based, others at school, some for only an hour or two and others require more time.



- ✓ The WEPTO is a group of your friends and neighbors working together toward a common goal – creating better schools and better educational experiences for our children. We have accomplished so much these last few years but there is so much more that can be done. We need your help!
- ✓ We appreciate your ideas, attendance at WEPTO meetings and your continued support!

We are still filling positions for this school year, including the Board positions as well as Site-Based Coordinators at each school and Town-Wide Chairpersons for our Student Directory, Scholastic Book Fair and Spring Carnival fundraisers. Please email us at [WEPTOPresident@gmail.com](mailto:WEPTOPresident@gmail.com) if you have interest in learning about these positions!

## Arts & Education Program News

For new parents and seasoned parents alike, one of the best parts of the WEPTO is the **Arts & Education Program!** AEP brings professional performers, artists and authors into the school to enrich and enhance our children's curriculum. Funds raised by the WEPTO support this wonderful program by providing **cultural arts, music, literary, science, and social studies programs** to students at each of the 6 elementary schools. Look for more details about AEP programming on our website and in future newsletters.



## About WEPTO Fundraising

### Invest In Your Child

A majority of our fundraising takes place during the first quarter of the school year (Sep-Dec). This allows us to generate revenue to fund our budget for the year. Our *first and biggest* program is the **Invest In Your Child** campaign. **100% of your donated funds** directly support the programs and activities the WEPTO brings into each of our schools.

**You can donate NOW to the WEPTO Invest In Your Child campaign using PayPal. Visit our website [www.westford.com/westelmpo](http://www.westford.com/westelmpo) and click on the "Donate Button."**

### Innisbrook Gifts and Gift Wrap

In October, we plan to organize a gift wrap and merchandise fundraiser. We are pleased to have **INNISBROOK** back by popular demand. The Fundraiser will run from **Thursday, Oct 2 thru Friday, Oct 17** to ensure delivery before the holidays! Watch for details about the KICKOFF event.

### Other WEPTO Fundraisers

We will continue to offer programs that families enjoy such as the **Scholastic Book Fairs** (in school & online), the **Spring Carnival** and **Westford-branded promotional merchandise** (hats, shirts, chairs, etc). This year we are exploring our options to obtain corporate sponsorships so we can eliminate the smaller fundraisers we have grown to rely upon to meet our AEP and other obligations.

### ShoeBox Recycling Program

**Give your old shoes the boot!**

WEPTO and Westford Middle School PTO have collaborated to bring this used shoe-recycling fundraising program to Westford. Bring your gently used, paired shoes to your school to be recycled and shipped around the globe. Don't forget to drop them off during your school's Curriculum Night!



### Welcome Back Coffees

**Come Learn About WEPTO**

A WEPTO Welcome Back Coffee will be held at each school in September. We invite you to come and learn more about WEPTO's mission, programs, and volunteer opportunities. Dates and times will be announced soon. **WATCH THOSE BACKPACKS for details!!**

Site Based Coordinators are **NEEDED** at **all six schools!**

Email  
[WEPTOPresident@gmail.com](mailto:WEPTOPresident@gmail.com)  
for more info.