

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Avery Adam and Kristi Bates | WEPTOpresident@gmail.com

Welcome back to another great year! We hope that everyone is settling nicely into the new school year.

The WEPTO relies upon parent volunteers to serve on the Executive Board, chair or co-chair our various events and to help at events. We encourage you to come to a WEPTO meeting to learn about the various opportunities—there are so many ways to get involved and we are so appreciative of your time! Without the involvement of Westford families the WEPTO wouldn't be the success that it is!



WEPTO is listening! We've heard you missed Innisbrook gift wrap so we've brought it back! At the end of September, your child brought home a catalog for our Innisbrook sale! The sale runs **Oct 2 through Oct 17**. You will find over 150 items, including exclusive gift wrap, unique gifts and home décor items, delicious Helen Grace chocolates, magazine gift vouchers and more. Your orders will be in the schools for Parent Teacher conferences before Thanksgiving break.

We need everyone's support in order for our fundraising campaign to be a success! Your donation to *Invest in Your Child* will enable us to continue to support wonderful PTO programs including the Arts & Education Program, Star Reader, Math and Science Nights, as well as provide funding for school libraries and the Living Lab. These programs create memories and excitement outside of the day-to-day classroom setting.

As a service to all of you, this year's WEPTO Student Directory will be distributed at no cost to you! You can list your child's information in the WEPTO *paperless* Student Directory any time during the course of the school year. The first edition will be sent via email at the end of October.

We are proud to support the students, teachers, and staff of all 6 Westford Elementary Schools and we're excited to work together with you to make this year a wonderful experience for children and parents alike.

Avery & Kristi

Arts & Education Programming

Grades K-2 | Karen Cross | kdcrosscpa@gmail.com

Grades 3-5 | Jessica Paxton | jgpaxton@gmail.com

Arts & Education Programming (AEP) compliments what our children are learning in school with hands-on experiences. WEPTO is able to bring these programs to our schools through fundraising efforts like the Invest in Your Child campaign. Thank you, thank you for your contributions to make these programs possible.

Would you like to see your child's program and be able to talk about it at home? Parent volunteers are needed for AEP programs. Please contact an AEP Chairperson above.

AEP Programs – Coming Soon

Rhythm Kids (Kindergarten)

Music, movement, and drumming! On a class-by-class basis, students join Rhythm Kids for a wild, African adventure. They will use the sounds of percussion instruments to take the students on an imaginary trip into the rainforest of Ghana. In a village-style circle, children will play on their own authentic African drums as they learn traditional African rhythms. Visit Rhythmkids.com.

Author Visit – Emilie Boon (1st grade)

Children's author and illustrator Emilie Boon will explain the various stages a book goes through from conception to production, using her own books as an example. At the end of her

presentation, the children create their own mini books using her crayon and watercolor technique. Her books include *Belinda's Balloon*, *A Cake for Barney and Daddy*, *Will You Play with Me?* Visit Emilieboon.com.

Wingmasters (1st & 4th grade)

This program shows how owls use their specialized power of sight, hearing, and flight to survive and thrive. Jim Parks shares a wealth of facts and folklore about these masters of the dark. Visit wingmasters.net.

Daniel Cripps

Native American Perspectives (4th grade)

Dan, dressed in clothing of the western plains Native Americans, sits inside a 13 ft tipi with each classroom for a very unique learning experience. Students learn about the land, animals, heritage, and traditions of the 1800's North American people. Visit nativeamericanperspectives.com.

Techsplorations

Shocking Facts of Electricity (4th grade)

What is electricity and how is it made? Can you really make lightning? Can you generate a strong magnetic field using only a small battery? What are ohms and volts? Spectacular demonstrations abound! A Van de Graff generator, Tesla coil, and even a light saber are used to show basic laws of electricity and magnetism. Visit techsploration.com.



STAY CONNECTED!

Facebook: "Like" WEPTO to hear about events and volunteer opportunities. www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto

Email: For all WEPTO fliers, news, Info to Know Newsletter, visit www.westfordk12.us/subscriber and select PTO News.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

WEPTO Budget

The WEPTO's 2014-2015 operating budget is under development. It will be posted [online](#) for your review when it has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Invest In Your Child

Invest in your child's education and donate to the WEPTO today!

WEPTO is asking for your support in our annual "Invest In Your Child" fundraiser. This fundraiser is our **biggest** fundraiser of the year where **100% of the revenue** directly supports the programs and activities the WEPTO brings into each of our schools.

Please take a moment to write a check to the WEPTO so we can continue to provide Arts & Education Programming to our children. Donating to this easy fundraiser will help reduce the number of fundraisers required to fund these programs.

Innisbrook Fundraiser

Back by Popular Demand

In October (2-17), we are bringing back a very popular fundraiser from **Innisbrook** that we have successfully hosted in previous years. Innisbrook offers over 150 quality products including 63 gift wrap designs, kitchen items, Helen Grace chocolates and the popular cookie dough which will now be shipped to the schools. 90% of the products are \$15 or less and 80% of the products are made in America. Orders will be available to be picked up from your child's school before conferences in November.

Students earn credit toward prizes for every order placed on their behalf! This fundraiser generates close to **15%** of our revenue. More information on this fundraiser will be available soon, but for a preview of the products and offerings, you can visit: Innisbrook.com.

WEPTO Student Directory

Free Paperless Directory

Once again the WEPTO is compiling a student directory. The 2014-2015 WEPTO Student Directory contains student listings for all 6 elementary schools and will be provided free of charge to all WEPTO members.

You can list your child's information in the WEPTO paperless Student Directory any time during the course of the school year. To have your information included, visit our website at www.westford.com/westelmpto and click on the link "ADD YOUR LISTING 2014-2015 Student Directory" on the left side of our home page.

The paperless student directory will only be delivered via email. Our electronic format allows you to view, search and print only the pages you need and also gives us the flexibility to update and redistribute the directory throughout the school year.

Important Notes

We have removed home address from the data collected to be respectful of privacy concerns.

Please complete and submit a separate form for each child you have attending Westford elementary schools.

If you would like to include alternate contact information for a student, please complete the form twice for each student.

The **deadline** to submit listings for the first electronic distribution of the directory is **Friday, Oct 10**.

The Great Westford Lunch Crunch

In celebration of National Food Day

The Westford Agricultural Commission in partnering with Westford's K-5 schools this fall to introduce students to local agriculture.

In celebration of National Food Day, Friday, Oct 24, students in Westford's K-5 schools will be invited to see how much noise they can collectively make in support of fresh food. During regular lunch periods, students will be provided a whole, locally-sourced fresh apple, carrot or other crunchy vegetable of their caregiver's choosing and invited to simultaneously "crunch" with their classmates to see how loud a noise they can make all together.



A weeklong lunchtime countdown to the event will cover facts about local apple production and its place in Westford's history; a food drive will be held to benefit the Westford Food Pantry; and apple cores will be composted at Fat Moon Farm in Westford. To follow on the lesson, students will be invited to make a healthy eating pledge of their own on Monday, Oct 27. Food Day is a national day of awareness building for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food.

Box Tops for Education

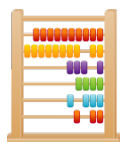
Keep clipping! Each Box Top earns \$0.10 for the WEPTO and those dimes add up quickly!! Last year our schools earned over **\$8,000!**



Send your Box Tops in with your child to any of the 6 elementary schools. Our next collection date is **Oct 10**. Please check the expiration date on your Box Tops; we are unable to redeem expired Box Tops.

To learn more about earning Box Tops with online purchases, visit [Box Tops for Education](#) on the web. Click [here](#) for a complete listing of box top products.

100% of the funds earned from the Box Tops for Education program go to support WEPTO programs.



SCHOOL NEWS



ABBOT SCHOOL

- Welcome back Abbot Families! We have lots of events and volunteer opportunities in the works, so stay tuned, and check out our [Abbot School Facebook page](#).
- The team at Abbot includes Site Based Coordinators and WEPTO veterans **Christine Dunn-Benson**, **Seema Pusalkar**, and **Jill Haines**. AEPs are Kelly Guthrie, Laura Floyd, and Kim Durgin. Contact us with any ideas, suggestions, or expressions of undying gratitude. ☺
- September activities included the kickoff of the Invest In Your Child Fundraiser, BoxTops for Education, ShoeBox Recycling, and Curriculum night. We held a School Advisory Council (SAC) election, results to follow. Thank you to **Kelly Doonan**, **Mark House**, and **Alison Macko** for volunteering to join the SAC. **Welcome Back Games Night** for families was held in Sep. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped to facilitate such a fun event. **The Welcome Back Cider and Donuts for Volunteers** is Sep 30, in the Abbot Cafeteria at 10am.
- October brings the **Innisbrook Fundraiser**, a **Fall Spruce-Up** event, **The Great Lunch Crunch** (Oct 24), and the **Grand Opening** of the **School Store**. In other news, we are actively seeking parents to help students with the Abbot School Store. The school store is a great opportunity for kids to become familiar with economics and to gain a sense of pride through their hard work. It will be student-run, but we need adults who have time on a monthly basis to guide the kids.
- Check out the **Arts & Education Program schedule** each month. We use **SignUp Genius** to schedule all volunteers, so please join if you haven't already. We couldn't do this without our volunteers. Don't be shy, contact us, and if you appreciate our witty banter, join us.

Christine Dunn-Benson | 978-846-1462 | sbcdunnbenson@gmail.com

Jill Haines | 617-515-9079 | jill.haines.wepto@gmail.com

Seema Pusalkar | 781-588-3938 | seemapusalkar@gmail.com

Kellie Guthrie (AEP) | |

Laura Flyod (AEP) | |

Kim Durgin (AEP) | 978.692.4165 | kac174@comcast.net

CRISAFULLI SCHOOL

- **Welcome back** Crisafulli families! PTO volunteer forms went home recently. Please consider signing up to volunteer. We are planning an exciting year and need your help. Besides being a great way to support our children, schools, and community, volunteering with the PTO is a lot of fun!
- Contact **Alison** and **Sally** for more information. We're looking forward to meeting you all!

Alison Simoneau | 978.392.2102 | jac.wepto.sbc@gmail.com

Sally Rosenthal | jac.wepto.sbc@gmail.com

Site Based Coordinator – OPEN

Jessica Paxton (AEP) | jgpaxton@gmail.com

DAY SCHOOL

- WEPTO Fundraisers have begun - **Invest in Your Child**, **ShoeBox Recycling**. Please support WEPTO in any way you can.
- **ShoeBox Recycling** boxes are in the Day lobby. Please consider donating your gently used shoes.
- **Box Tops for Education** may be sent in to school with your child at any time. Each Box Top earns \$0.10 for the WEPTO.
- Include your info in the **Student Directory**. The listing is **FREE** and you will get **free electronic version**. Including yourself helps our community get connected.

Weisong Wang | 978-394-0399 | tiggertuffy2002@yahoo.com

Gina Mach | | ginamach@optonline.net

Cheryl O'Hearn | |

Site Based AEP – OPEN

MILLER SCHOOL

- We are pleased to welcome **Ann Czado** to our team of site-based coordinators; this brings the total up to three hard working ladies!
- **School Advisory Council** elections were completed last week and we have added three new members to the council. They are parent representatives **Joseph Jussaume** and **Ketan Dave** and community representative **Carol Shestok**.
- We are planning our first event of the school year – our annual **Dance for a Cause** to be held on Friday, Oct 3. Students from the Blanchard Middle School will be volunteering at this event to teach our Miller friends the chicken dance, hokey pokey and other fun line dances. All proceeds from the dance will go to the **Westford Food Pantry**.
- Our students just completed their first **compassion project** of the year and we will be sending over 200 beautiful drawings to members of the military serving overseas this holiday season. We thank the Westford Women's Club for inviting us to participate in this worthy cause.
- Miller Movie Night is coming in October. Students will be voting soon on which movie to show.
- We are off to a great start with our ShoeBox Recycling. Donation boxes are in the Miller lobby. Keep up the great work!
- We're already thinking ahead to Teacher Conference Dinner in November. Contact **Kathi** if you are would like to provide a dish.

Kathi Dolan | 978-496-1755 | kdolan1029@gmail.com

Amy Dyer | 978-270-1119 | amydyer333@gmail.com

Site Based Coordinator – OPEN

Site Based AEP – OPEN

NABNASSET SCHOOL

- Nab welcomes 5 new **Site-Based Coordinators**, plus one returning SBC, bringing the grand total to 6! All are working hard to welcome new families and new staff to our school and to welcome back returning families and staff. Wishing **Michelle Metivier, Caroline Parks, Michelle Parradee, Jen Scarano, Kerry Shyjan, and Susan Silvia** a rewarding year as they work to serve the Nab community.
- Over **75 colorful, pinwheels** adorned the school property during the first week of school!
- A **Save-the-Date** card went home in backpacks to help families keep track of all the social events and fundraising events happening at Nab throughout the year.
- **Sign-Up Genius** is being set up to help those wonderful people who want to volunteer or donate to our school functions. Look for a Sign-Up Genius button on the Home Page of the Nabnasset School website.
- Plans are well underway for the first big social event of the year – the **Halloween Parade!** Come join the fun Oct 29 at 4PM; rain date Oct 30. Thank you **Laurie Moore** for the tireless work you put into this amazing event!
- Please contact your Nab SBCs at: nabnassetsbc@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments.

Kerry Shyjan | 978.692.8908 | shyjan@comcast.net

Michelle Metivier | Metivier@verizon.net

Susan Silvia | ssilvia9697@yahoo.com

Michelle Paradee | nabnassetsbc@gmail.com

Jen Scarano | jenniferscarano@verizon.net

Caroline Parks | 617-947-9522 | carolineparks2002@yahoo.com

Amanda Zaman (AEP) | zamanam@gmail.com

ROBINSON SCHOOL

- We're excited about the 2014-15 School Year!
- Robinson's **Dining Hall** received some extra attention this summer with freshly painted walls and shiny floors.
- Our **Back-to-School Nights** were a big success and featured a Robinson PTO table selling our new "We Care" Robinson red, 100% recycled, reusable shopping totes. They are great for groceries, winter boots, and anything else the kids can stuff in them.
- Our Annual **Movie Night** will be on Friday, Oct 3 featuring "**The LEGO Movie**".
- **Fall Cleanup** is Monday, Oct 6. Grab your gardening gloves and come on over to help spruce up our school grounds.
- Please continue to send in your **Box Tops for Education** throughout the school year. Please make sure they are clipped and **not expired**. Our next submission date is Oct 10. We earn \$0.10 for each Box Top!
- Our 5 PTO Site Based Coordinators are excited about this year's fundraising activities and we're looking forward to engaging with all of our parents to make our programs a success.
- **"Everything is AWESOME"** at Robinson School!

Amy Chervin | 781-820-6699 | amyc@iminentives.com

Joanne Tingle | 978-692-6466 | jtingle@verizon.net

Kim Koehr | 617-388-0272 | kim@koehr.com

Lynn Lamburn | 508-577-4712 | czechwoman@aol.com

Wendy Briggs | wendy_5_1998@yahoo.com

Jill Phan (AEP) | 202-455-6633 | jillrenae@gmail.com

