



From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

As I sit here at my desk and write my very first Tiger Topics article, it is Friday night, and I have just completed the first full week of school with my brand new Emerson-Williams Tigers Family. I am thoroughly exhausted, but I am also so in love with my new school! (My new home away from home.) I can't begin to express how grateful I am for the warm reception I have received from students, teachers, and parents since my arrival here. I know that I am incredibly lucky to have landed in such an awesome learning community. The teachers in this school are truly spectacular. They are dedicated, hard-working, and true collaborators. They take their work very seriously, but they also are FUN, and they enjoy their students tremendously. This week, they have been working very hard to get to know all of the students personally, engage students in team-building activities, and establish the necessary procedures / protocols / routines so that rigorous learning can take place in an environment that is safe, nurturing, orderly. They have also been working hard to complete baseline academic assessments on all students so that they can appropriately plan their instruction to meet the unique needs of each and every individual student. Student behavior in this school is OUT OF THIS WORLD fantastic! I love the respect that students show toward teachers, support staff, and each other. They understand the importance of moving silently in the halls so that instruction is not disturbed in the other classes. We have already conducted two fire drills, and visitors to our building praised students for being very silent, following teachers' directions, and taking the drills seriously.

In This Issue

PTO Highlights	3	Donate Unused Coupons	5	Labels for Education	6
Mark Your Calendars	4	Holiday Store	5	EW Directory	7
Box Tops	4	Public Library Events	6	PTO Membership Form	8
Target	5	Babysitters	6	Thank You to Our Sponsors	11-12

From the Principal's Desk (Continued...)

Ms. Neela Thakur

Tiger parents are phenomenal, and are a huge part of our school community. If you are a Tiger parent, and you are not currently involved in a PTO Committee, I strongly urge you to consider doing so. Our PTO parents are dedicated, creative, and are such a fun group. There are a TON of Committees to choose from, and many are still in need of volunteers. Parents, thank you so much for the Welcome Back Luncheon for our Staff, the hard work during the Book Fair, and the extensive planning that is already underway for the fun Sixth Grade Activities. I appreciate everything that you do throughout the school year. You are all so important to this school. Playscape update: Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the students are already hanging / sliding / climbing all over that gorgeous playscape. While the playscape itself has been completed for the past two weeks, we ran into some stumbling blocks with the curbing and rubber surfacing. If the playscape is not ready by the time you are reading this (ugh!), it should be ready really, really soon. Your children have been wonderfully patient about the delay. Thank you to all of the parents who have played a huge role in seeing this (literally) enormous project through from start to finish. I know that there have been some headaches along the way, but it will have been well worth it when we see all of the smiling faces on that playscape. On Friday, September 27, we will be celebrating International Dot Day at Emerson-Williams. Dot Day is based on the gem of a picture book entitled, *The Dot*, written by Peter H. Reynolds. *The Dot* is a simple, yet amazing, story of a very caring teacher who is able to reach a frustrated and reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. Our fabulous art teacher, Ms. Erica Nogueira, has read this story to every student in our school. Every student and every staff member has created their own unique dot, that will soon be displayed as a unified community piece outside of the Main Office. The objective of Dot Day will be to focus on inspiring all students to express themselves in their own unique way. Helping students to believe in themselves. Encouraging students to support their peers. Reminding students that they are all so important to us, and that they ALL can “make a mark” and contribute to our school community. As a symbol of what we will all strive to do each and every day here at Emerson-Williams, we would like for all teachers and all students to wear DOTS on Friday, September 27. For girls, this will most likely mean polka-dots. For boys, any type of a shirt with a circle / circles on it would be great (i.e., baseball, basketball, etc.). This will be the first of many spirit days throughout the school year, and it would be greatly appreciated if you could support us by dressing your children in DOTS on 9/27!

Regards,

Ms. Neela Thakur, Principal

PTO Highlights

Emerson-Williams Families, we welcome you to the new 2013-2014 school year. We hope you all have had a fun, relaxing, and enjoyable summer and are ready to join us for an exciting school year with the PTO.

As our children and families have returned to Emerson this year, there are some new and exciting changes that have happened at our school. As you know, Mrs. Catarius retired at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. We are both excited and happy to welcome Ms. Neela Thakur as our new Principal. We look forward to her commitment to our school, the PTO, and most importantly our children.

Also new to the school this year, is our brand new \$120,000+ playground, which is nearly completed. We appreciate all of the parents, children, the Playscape Committee, sponsors, and Representatives Russ Morin and John Fonfara for making the playscape a realization this year. A lot of hard work has gone in over the last 4 1/2 years that saw the PTO raise an astounding \$60,000 and still be able to fund most of the annual events that deliver so much to our children's education at Emerson. The PTO plans on having a ceremony to properly acknowledge the efforts that were put in, and all families will be notified when a date has been set.

The first PTO meeting was held on September 12th and we welcomed some new people to our PTO family. Our PTO meetings are generally the 2nd Thursday of the month and are kept to 1 hour. We would love to continue to see a robust and involved group come to our meetings so that new ideas can be shared that will shape the PTO events for years to come. We understand that parents time after hours is valuable and the Executive Board is continually keeping the meetings on task and as brief as possible so our volunteers can donate their time, but still be home to spend time with their families. It is a fantastic way, for both new and existing families, to meet new people or get to spend time with families of the children that your kids share the day with.

The PTO is always looking for new volunteers, and this year will be no different. Since we understand that your time is valuable, all we hope is that you can take a "2 Hour Pledge" to help us out. If every family gave 2 hours throughout the school year, we would be extremely successful with reaching our goals and delivering the events and activities we know the children enjoy and love. Please consider donating only 2 hours this year, and the children, as well as the PTO will be forever grateful.

We are looking forward to bringing some new events this year, as well as expanding on ones that we currently host every year. We hope those of you who are reading this will get involved and help us help our children get the things they deserve. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us at any time during the school year. We look forward to working with all of you throughout the year.

Regards,

John Kiniry, 2nd Year Co-President
Paul LaPerriere, 1st Year Co-President

*"While we try to teach our children about life,
our children teach us what life is all about."*

2013-2014 PTO Meeting Schedule – 7:00pm (Upper Media Center)

October 10 • November 14 • December 12 • January 9 • February 13 • March 13 • April 10
May 8 • June 12

Looking for information? Check www.ewpto.com for links to school and PTO forms, events, fundraisers, Tiger Topics, lunch menus and the digital backpack (online copies of the school-wide notices that come home with your child each week).

Please check us out and LIKE US on FaceBook!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Spirit Day – September 27th - DOT DAY!
- Book Fair from September 16th to the 20th
- Sixth Grade Committee meeting: October 8th in the upper media center
- Picture Retake Day: to be announced in next month's Tiger Topics
- Holiday Store, Thursday November 21st!
- National Walk to School Day – October 9th

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops also offers online ways to earn even more cash for Emerson-Williams.

Check out www.btfе.com for a list of participating products, as well as online earning opportunities.

Advice

from EW teachers to our students on how to have a successful school year:

Show up on time, and be prepared.

Play outdoors!

Keep a positive attitude.

Be kind to everyone.

Look for more advice in future issues of Tiger Topics!

Board of Education

You can find information about the Board of Education's members, policies, minutes and schedule for upcoming meetings by visiting their website:

<http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=1643>

Target: Help Us Help Our School

There's an easy way to help us raise money for our school –for books, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding. It's called Take Charge of Education, and it's helping our school right now. It's great for you too! REDcard holders receive a 5% discount on purchases, and free shipping on Target.com orders. Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target® Visa® Credit Card, Target Credit Card® or Target Check Card®), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K–12 school of your choice. Don't have a REDcard? Apply in person at any Target store or go to Target.com/redcard. Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.

Donate Your Unused Coupons

Wethersfield High School student Joseph Sottile is collecting expired and unused manufacturers' coupons to donate to U.S. military families in other countries. Military commissaries overseas accept expired coupons. Last year Joseph received the Board of Education's CABE award and a Youth in Action award for this project. Please drop off your coupon circulars or clipped coupons in the donation box at school, or to Joseph Sottile, in the bin on the front porch at 131 Cider Brook Drive.

Holiday Store

It's that time of year again! The Emerson-Williams Holiday Store will be held Thursday, November 21, 2013. If you are interested in participating in either event please contact:

Holiday Store Co-Chairs:

Lauren Barbara
snl0617@att.net
860-665-9448

Amber Kiniry
amberstark76@aol.com
860-424-2144

***Holiday Store is in need of wrapping paper, gift bags and tape.
We appreciate any donations!***



Wethersfield Public Library Events

<p>Tuesday September 24, 2013</p>	<p>6:30pm: PIZZA & PAGES: 4th - 6th graders</p> <p>Nutmeg Award Book Discussion Series with a light supper.</p> <p>Title: <i>Candymakers</i> by Wendy Mass</p> <p><u>Registration is required</u></p>
<p>Thursday September 26, 2013</p>	<p>6:30pm: READY, SET... READ, MATH, SCIENCE: 4-5 year olds</p> <p>Specially designed activities that make reading, math or science come alive (topics alternate each week).</p> <p><u>Registration is required</u></p>

Babysitters Needed

Calling all E-W families that have High Schoolers: If your students need to pick up some community service time, we have an opportunity for them! Every month we need three babysitters for our PTO meetings. Responsibilities include monitoring school aged children during the meeting and ensuring that the classroom that is used gets left exactly as we found it! To get put on the schedule, please contact John Kiniry at jtk038@aol.com or 860-424-2143.

Labels for Education

Labels for Education allows our school to earn free merchandise such as athletic, art, music and academic equipment. Just clip and save Labels for Education bar codes from products you use every day, then drop them in the Labels for Education box outside the main office. Labels for Education products include Post, Pepperidge Farm, Campbell's, Dannon, Emerald, Pop Secret and Glad. Check out Labelsforeducation.com for a comprehensive list of participating products. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koziol (skoziol2011@hotmail.com or 860-529-3562).

EW Directory

Most forms went home with students populated with last year's Directory information in addition to the updated teacher for the current school year. Deadline for verifying/submitting student information has passed, some are still trickling in from certain classes. Businesses have until 9/20 to submit business card size ads for \$50 (Flyer: <http://www.ewpto.com/digitalbp/2013-09-10/Directory%20Ads.pdf>). The Directory will be completed and distributed in the first couple weeks of October.

Attention United Way Donors!

If you donate to the United Way through your workplace, did you know that you can designate Emerson-Williams PTO as the beneficiary of your donation? If you have any questions or need help, please contact John Kiniry for more information.



Important PTO Updates

If you are interested in heading up one of our PTO committees, please contact John Kiniry or Paul LaPerriere as soon as possible. At the October PTO meeting, we will be assessing the committees that do not have chairs in order to determine if those activities/events will be eliminated. As much as we would love to “do it all”, we have a limited number of volunteers. So please, go to www.ewpto.com and check out the committee list to see if anything matches your interests.

EMERSON~WILLIAMS 2013-2014 PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please support the Emerson-Williams PTO by donating \$7.00 per child or \$10.00 per family. Did you know that the Emerson Williams PTO helps to fund field trips, enrichment programs, social events and many more activities? All parents and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly PTO meetings to share their thoughts and ideas. Many topics are discussed, including up-coming events and concerns. Becoming a member does not obligate you to attend monthly meetings, but you are always welcome to come listen and share your ideas. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Our Success cannot continue without your support!
Thank you for your anticipated support of our PTO!

Please return the form below to your child's teacher. Checks can be made payable to:

EMERSON~WILLIAMS PTO
Child(ren) Name (s)

Grade(s)

Teacher(s)

Parent/Guardian Name

Child \$7.00

Family \$10.00

Additional/Other

Donation _____



Emerson-Williams PTO Facebook Page

“Like” us and you
will be entered
to win



a

\$100

Stop &
Shop Gift
card



(can be used on groceries, or even buy any gift card you would like that they carry in the store)

Also visit our Emerson-Williams PTO Website at
www.ewpto.com

****You must**



by September 21st to be entered to win!!!**



Health Tips

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

A MATTER OF LICE

As a new year begins with new faces; some visitors are not always welcome, I mean those dreaded lice. Here is the latest information about assessing and treating head lice.

Just the Facts

1. Lice are not dangerous; they don't spread disease and are not a sign of uncleanness.
2. Lice do not fly or jump; the only way they can get from one person to the other is **DIRECT** head to head contact, or direct contact with lice on items shown below.
3. The sharing of clothing, bedding, combs/brushes and hats/hair accessories may spread them.
4. Schools are not the most common place where head lice are spread. Sleep-overs among friends and relatives are thought to be a common way they are passed from home to home.
5. School-wide head checks are not recommended. The most effective screening occurs when parents check their own children and treat as described below.
6. Letters are not sent home routinely regarding cases at school unless there are two or more active cases in a classroom.
7. The "gold" standard if infestation is the direct visualization of live bugs. Contact your pediatrician for lice treatment options.
8. If only nits or eggs are present, removing them with a special small toothed comb is time consuming, but the **most** effective way to get rid of them. **DO THIS EVERY DAY UNTIL YOU NO LONGER SEE ANY.**
9. **NEVER TREAT ANYONE** "just in case". Head lice products can be pesticides, which are toxic if overused and can be absorbed through the skin. If you do need to use them, **FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.**
10. Shaving or cutting the hair is not necessary.
11. According to the National Assoc. of School Nurses, children found with live lice should be referred to parents for treatment. One of the biggest challenges is getting parents to communicate the problem to school and to other parents when they find head lice. This may prevent the passing back and forth of this problem.

As school nurses, we are your supportive advocate who can advise you about treatments and help you with checking and rechecking as you work to remove nits and lice from you child's head. We do not judge and we handle lice cases in a *confidential* manner. Please just ask.

Visit these links for valuable information and videos: www.headliceinfo.com and www.cdc.gov/lice

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Battistons

Dr John J Conroy Orthodontics

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Right at Home

Rita's

Support the Wethersfield Gymnastics Team



September 25th 2013

6-9pm

20% of all profits go towards the WHS Gymnastics Team