

April 2010

Tiger Topics

School Newsletter

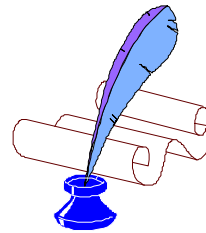


EMERSON-WILLIAMS

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

April is Poetry Month and students at Emerson-Williams have been busy writing poems and submitting them to the Poetry Mailbox. Each day throughout April, a student is selected to read their poem over the public address system. All students who submit poetry have their poems laminated and displayed in the Media Center. Thanks to Ms McLaughlin and Mrs. Corsair for coordinating this highly anticipated event.



In other news related to language arts, author Sarah Weeks presented to all grade levels on Tuesday, April 6th. She shared many of her published works, her approach to writing and the reasons why she became a writer. The students asked her some very interesting and insightful questions.

On Thursday, April 8th Fire Prevention Contest winner Megan was driven to school by a Wethersfield Fire Truck. Mrs. Colburn, Megan's fourth grade teacher, also rode to school with Megan. Megan's classmates and family met her at the front entrance where Mr. Dignoti, Wethersfield's Fire Marshall, presented her with a trophy and a certificate. Also on Friday, April 9th, grade six attended a performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at Silas Deane Middle School. The sixth grade will make another visit to Silas Deane Middle School on May 18th for an orientation and tour of their soon to be new school.

There have been some recent staff changes at Emerson-Williams. Mr. Craig Nelson is the new head custodian at Highcrest School. Mr. James Discenza will be the new head custodian at Emerson-Williams. Additionally, Mrs. Beth L'Etoile is the new cafeteria manager. Ms Norton, former grade 5 teacher, resigned and was married on Friday, April 2. She and her husband will be moving to California. Mr. Brandon Moore is the long term substitute for Ms Norton and will be the substitute in grade 5 until the end of the year.

Finally, the students are again enjoying outdoor recess, as the weather has been wonderful.

Talent Show

The Emerson-Williams Talent Show is Saturday, May 1st at Wethersfield High School, 6:30 pm. If your child is in the show, there is a mandatory dress rehearsal on Wednesday, April 28th @ Silas Deane Middle School, immediately after school. More info to follow.

PTO Meeting

The next PTO Meeting is **Thursday, May 13th**, at 7:00pm in the upper Media Center.

Tiger Topics

Please send topics or suggestions for the next issue of Tiger Topics to David Berry at djberry@snet.net by Friday, May 14th.

PTO Highlights

Michele Lavoie 944-6765 ~
Paula Heinzmann 571-8939

Spring has arrived and before you know it we will be celebrating Summer! We have a jam packed event calendar for the next few months, so make sure you update your calendars and save the dates!

April vacation (4/19-4/23) will be followed by **TV Turn-Off week (4/26-4/30)** where we have planned a few fun events throughout the week to help you enjoy family time. We will kick it off with Monday evening "**Swim Night**" at Wethersfield High School pool (signs ups to go home soon), a fundraising dinner at **On the Border on Tuesday (4/27)**, (10% of the total of all orders bearing an EW flyer that day ONLY will be donated to Emerson-Williams PTO), and there will be plenty of bouncing at **BounceU on Thursday (4/29)** - be sure to RSVP on time...limited spots available! And there you have it, April will be over before we know it!

May brings Spring flowers and an amazing **Talent show on May 1st** at Wethersfield High School! Special thanks to Robin Bourassa, Michele Quadrato and their committee for coordinating and running the show. We are all looking forward to seeing our kids in the Talent show...another great family event! We are still in need of volunteers, so if you are interested,

please contact Robin Bourassa (robinbourassa@cox.net) or Michele Quadrato.

Congratulations to **Martina Cacioli** who has been nominated as an outstanding volunteer on behalf of Emerson-Williams for the **WSPC Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Award**. A ceremony is scheduled for May. Martina is a tireless worker who always has a smile and jumps right in to help at all times whenever there is a need.

Watch for the **BoxTop contest in May**...it's finally here! Collect as many BoxTops for your individual class and the winning class will get a popcorn party in June, and we will all be winners with the increased amount of BoxTops which gives our school \$.10 for each one! That's a lot of money, and not too hard to help with!

Break out those sneakers and tie up those laces....our annual **Jog-a-thon** will take place on **Friday, May 14th** (Rain date May 21st). This is such an exciting opportunity for our kids, as they get to exercise and raise money for our school through their sponsors- details coming soon!

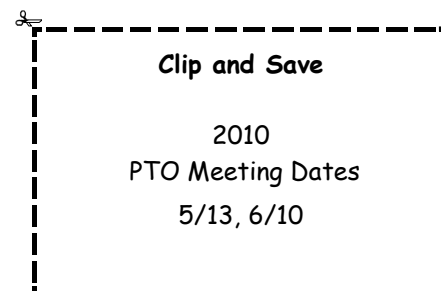
Emerson-Williams **Strawberry Festival** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 12th**. Please expect a phone call from your room parents in May asking for **donations of water and TIME!** Also, we are in desperate need of new games for the Strawberry Festival. We are

accepting NEW "FAMILY-MADE" games! If your family has the time to make one, get great ideas by just Googling "Kid Carnival Game Ideas."

We are even expecting a visit from Rocky - from the **Rock Cats**, as he will be promoting our **June 27th game**. For any questions or ideas please call Paula or Michele...we are grateful for any ideas, time, or games you can contribute. Please notify us if you are able to help!

A special thanks once again to Paul and Jacqueline LaPerriere for initiating the plans for the new Emerson-Williams **PROJECT: Playscape**. We will need help from EVERYONE....this will benefit our Emerson-Williams children, as well as our community. Take a stand and be a part of this experience: Get a TEAM together for the **GOLF FUNDRAISER**, information and details coming soon! We need lots of volunteers to make this \$90K project successful. Please contact Paul if you can help!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in even the littlest way, it all counts and we all appreciate every one of our volunteers.



Save the Date!

TV Turn-off Week (April 26th-30th) Join us in the family events we have planned during TV Turn-off Week and TURN OFF YOUR TV's!! Watch for the details in the next couple weeks!

Talent Show: Come see how talented our own Emerson students are! Emerson-Williams Talent Show is **Saturday, May 1st** at Wethersfield High School, 6:30 pm. If your child is in the show, there is a mandatory dress rehearsal on Wednesday, April 28th @ Silas Deane Middle School, immediately after school. More info to follow. Pre-sale tickets to the show are available up until Wednesday the 29th of April or they will be available at the door the night of the show. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Children 3 and under are free. This is sure to be a fun and enjoyable evening for all. See you there!

We are looking for any volunteers to help us the week before the show and help the evening of the show. Please contact Michele @ 563-2100 or Robin @563-9333 if you are interested in helping out! Thanks!

Art Show: Monday, June 7th You will be invited to admire all of our students artwork in our very own Emerson-Williams Art Show!

Strawberry Festival: June 12th Mark your calendars now because you will NOT want to miss the annual Emerson-Williams Strawberry festival. We are desperately looking for volunteers to help create new games and help improve some of the old games! If you have any carpentry skills or creativity, please contact Paula Heinzmann (860-571-8939) or Michele Lavoie (860-944-6765) Don't wait....it will be here before we know it!

Rock Cats: Sunday, June 27th at 1:30 p.m. Come cheer on the New Britain Rock Cats as they play the Sea Dogs (Double-A Affiliate of the Boston Red Sox)!! Tickets will be available through our PTO in June. More info to follow.

Student Recognition

Samantha in grade 4, Kelly in grade 3 and Monique in grade 5 have had their artwork chosen to represent Emerson-Williams School in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/Wethersfield Public Schools Youth Art Appreciation program. Sarah's artwork will be displayed at Wethersfield Public Library, Kelly's artwork will be displayed at Burger King Restaurant on the Silas Deane Highway and Monique's art work was displayed at Webster Bank on the Silas Deane Highway.

Congratulations to these students!

Thank You!

Thanks to Michele Livingston, Phoebe Ostergren and Andrea Ginter for all their help in making the Butter Braid Fundraiser a big success. Their experience made it all run very smoothly.

Thank you Phoebe Ostergren for planting seeds and "dirt" throughout the Teachers Lounge! What a creative Teacher Appreciation's Idea.

Thank you to the Bertucio, Cacioli, & Vasel families for taking time out of their busy schedule to come and beautify our school on a Saturday morning. Please note the flowers planted in the pots out in front of the building, the extra clean area's around the building and the three new solar lights that light up our school sign at night in the circle island. Students Daniel & Katharina , Shawn , Rachel & former student Ashley worked hard picking up trash, pulling weeds & pushing the wheel barrel. Thank you to all.

THANK YOU ALL!



Art Show

Calling all Emerson Families:

The Art Festival Team is seeking empty shoe boxes of all sizes! Get those new cleats and spring sneakers boxes to EW Art room. Thanks!

Tiger Topics Health [Q]uick Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, RN, BSN

DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS,

6th graders:

Keep getting the physical forms in to me. I still have many students that have not gotten them in. You will not be allowed to enter 7th grade in September without one.

5th and 6th graders: A notice will be going out soon for Scoliosis Screening. If you have any questions please call me.



BLOOD DRIVE: Emerson Williams will be sponsoring a blood drive on May 11th from 1:30pm to 6:00pm here at EW. We need a great EW family turnout!

BMI: I am sure many of you have heard about it. Body Mass Index is a number calculated from a person's weight and height. BMI provides a reliable indicator of body fatness for most people and is used to screen for weight categories that may lead to health problems. It is also a good indicator in children health. Please visit the Center for Disease control and Prevention website [www.cdc.gov] to find valuable information regarding BMI as well as use the BMI calculator to find out what your BMI is.

April is Backpack Safety Awareness Month!

Of all the things we think about as parents of school children, backpack safety may be a low priority. However, backpacks *are* something to think about as using them improperly over time, can cause long term back problems. To promote a healthy spine for your child, here are some tips to consider:

1. **Choose the Right Pack:** Choose a pack with wide, padded shoulders to help distribute the weight and contents of the backpack evenly. This will reduce pressure on the shoulders and neck.
2. **Pack the Right Stuff:** Pack only the essential items needed. The weight of the backpack and contents should not exceed **15%**. For example, an **80 lb** student should not carry a backpack weight of more **12 lbs.**
3. **Lift the Right Way:** When lifting a back pack from the floor, use both hands
And bend at the knees.
4. **Wear it Right:** Use both straps with a snug fit. Also, the waist strap is highly recommended (if the back pack is equipped with this feature).

PlayTime

Dear Emerson-Williams Family,

As you read last month, our 14 year old playscape is in need of being replaced in the near future. The cost to replace can be anywhere from \$70k to \$90k. If and when the playscape is deemed unsafe, it will need to be torn down immediately, and thus leaving our children without a playscape to play on. In addition to the PTO fund raising events we do throughout the year, we would like to start an annual **Emerson-Williams Golf Tournament** event specifically designed to raise money for the playscape.

Paul LaPerriere is chairing this new fund raiser, and is requesting any assistance (hands on or ideas/suggestions) from any members of our Emerson Williams Family of parents. We need more volunteers to help us secure sponsorships, raffle donations, etc. as well as help plan an event that could help us achieve our goal. If you are interested in joining our committee or have input for this annual event, please contact:

Paul LaPerriere -- 860-538-3698 (Cell) 860-665-7089 (H)

Michele Lavoie -- 860-257-8030 (H)

Paula Heinzmann -- 860-571-8939 (H)

The time is now to begin raising money for the playscape. Surrounding schools who have replaced their own playscapes, started raising money 3-4 years in advance, so this will be a long term annual fundraiser. We need your help and any help you can give will be very appreciated! Thank you.



Tri-Town YMCA Camp Shining Stars

This nationally accredited camp offers programs for children from 3-15 years old from Wethersfield and the surrounding community. Each day is filled with fun and enriching experiences which promote skill development, self-confidence and encourage friendships.

This summer at camp, your camper may choose to play sports, create arts and crafts, explore nature, try team building activities, swim, act in a play, perform in a talent show and more! Each week at camp features a different theme- like "World Record Week", "Extreme Adventure Week", and "Carnival Week".

Campers spend half of each day in a home group with their skilled and dedicated head counselors. This offers kids a chance to form strong and lasting friendships, and to feel like part of a team. The other half of the day is spent in camper-chosen activities- with lots of fun and exciting choices each day.

Half-day (morning or afternoon) and full-day schedules are available.

We'd love to meet your family at an Open House night- please call the Tri-Town YMCA for Open House dates and more information about camp. Call 860-563-0604 and ask for Shelly.

PTO Budget Meeting

There will be a meeting on Thursday, May 6th at 7:00 in the Upper Media Center to go over the PTO budget for next year. All are invited to attend!