

Tiger Topics Newsletter, April 2017



From the Desk of the Emerson-Williams PTO Co-Presidents

Dear Emerson-Williams Families,

Welcome back from a warm Spring recess. Ready to take on a busy May and June? Only two months of school left to enjoy! May 1-7 is Screen Free Week so turn off all your electronic devices and join our scheduled activities. May 1-5 is Teacher Appreciation Week and we're ready with lots of appreciation events for our Teachers and staff. There is plenty to do and it will be loads of fun! Be sure to read the flyers.

Our PTO is looking for a 1st Year Co-President which is a two year commitment. A nomination flyer was sent home about open PTO Board positions. Please consider running or nominating someone! And speaking of nominations, this year's Emerson-Williams winner of **the WSPC Volunteer Recognition Award goes to Mrs. Leslie Williams**. She will be awarded a certificate at the awards ceremony for all Wethersfield school winners on May 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Webb Elementary School auditorium. Everyone is welcome to attend and cheer on our winner, **congratulations Leslie!**

Our last PTO meeting was very productive. So much is going on so check our calendar of events. We are very excited that Mr. Coursey will be able to purchase Heart Zones Systems, heart rate monitors, for our EW students.

We want to thank everyone at EW for all you do to make our school a great place of learning. **Our congratulations goes out to Erica McGregor on receiving a kidney transplant** and she is doing well. We would like to thank everyone that participated in the Bertucci's Benefit for Erica as the proceeds will help her with medical bills and the high cost of the medication she needs to take for life. As always, Emerson-Williams families and staff show all of the love in their hearts by supporting a member of our community.

Respectfully Yours,
Darka Jara, 2yrpres@ewpto.com
Colleen Mattatall, 1yrpres@ewpto.com
Co-Presidents, EW PTO

May 1

Happy Principal's Day!

May 1 - 5

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
Monday – Bring a Flower
Tuesday – Bring Facial Tissues
Wednesday – Wear Teacher Favorite Color
Thursday – Bring a Thank you Note
Friday – Staff Appreciation Luncheon
by 1st Grade – Cinco de Mayo

May 1 - 7

Screen Free Week
Monday – Puerto Vallarta and Froyo Night
Tuesday – Pajama Yoga Party
Wednesday – Talent Show
Thursday – Dinner on the Lawn with The Rents and Family Brick Oven Pizza Truck
Friday – Bowling Night
Saturday – Scavenger Hunt and BYO Picnic at Mill Woods
Sunday – Do Your Own Family Thing

May 3

Talent Show and Artist's Corner, 6 p.m. at Silas Deane Middle School

May 4

Field Day 12:30-2:30 p.m. E-W Lawn,
Rain Date May 5

May 10

Walk/Bike To School Day

May 11

PTO Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center at E-W

May 12

Happy Nurse's Day!
~~Family Book Swap and Game Night~~

May 26

Red, White, and Blue Spirit Day

May 29

Memorial Day – No School

June 1

Jog-a-thon

June 19

Last Day of School – Early Dismissal

www.ewpto.com, Webmaster: Chrissy Pikos
Like and Follow us on Facebook at
Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

Page 1 of 12 Tiger Topics
April 2017
Editor: Leslie Williams

From the Principal's Desk

By Ms. Neela Thakur

Our yearly state testing will take place for all students in Grades 3 - 6 on May 9 - May 19. Our state testing is called SBAC, which stands for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Students will be taking one test in the area of English Language Arts, and two tests in the area of Math. All tests will be taken on the computer, and students have no time constraints whatsoever. Testing time will be 45 minutes per day, and individual students can have as many sessions as they need until they have completed all three tests. The SBAC is adaptive, which means the test will adjust and give each student easier questions or more difficult questions (all within the grade level range) based on whether or not students are getting previous questions right or wrong. For the past month, our Grade 3 - 6 students have been working on some new Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) that are giving them some specific exposure and practice with assessment-like questions on the computer, and those IABs have been giving classroom teachers immediate data / feedback about how students are performing, so teachers can adjust and modify their instruction based on how students are doing. These IABs are short and specific in nature, and cover topics such as Editing and Revising, Fractions, Geometry, etc. Our students will all feel very comfortable and confident with the testing platform by the time the testing rolls around on May 9. Please remind your children to take their time and do their very best work. Remember, it was a combination of their great scores and their growth in scores from one year to the next that helped earn Emerson-Williams the very prestigious Category 1 status with the state a few months ago. (Only two schools in Wethersfield earned this status, and proudly we were one of them!) Teachers and students have been working very hard. They are ready!

School Mission

At Emerson-Williams Elementary School, we strongly believe in the joy of learning. Ours is a caring, compassionate environment that respects and supports the dignity of the whole child. We work hand-in-hand with families and the community to develop lifelong learners and contributing members of our changing society.

Keep In Touch

We want to stay in touch with you. Please be sure to Like AND Follow us on Facebook at Emerson-Williams Elementary PTO. Also, please provide your email address to receive EW PTO emails by going to www.ewpto.com and on the right, click on



EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to:

Peping Dee, Treasurer, and all of the Budget Committee members for creating a PTO budget for the 2017-2018 school year. Our parent volunteers are amazing!

All of the Fifth Grade Room Parents and Families who organized a fantastic April Teacher/Staff Appreciation event. The Teacher's Scoop Ice Cream Sundae Bar was so awesome and clever. Thank you for making our teachers so happy! They loved it!!

Darka Jara for organizing the Kansas Maid Braided pastry and Cookie Dough fundraiser. We hope you enjoy your delicious treats.

Fran Schwarzhaupt and all of the EW families that helped the Marcelynas Family in their time of mourning. Thank you for being so generous. Please see Mrs. Marcelynas' thank you note on page 6.

Christina Carreiro and all of the Talent Show committee for all of the hard work to help make this a wonderful and fun filled event for the kids. We heard Talent Show rehearsals went well! Can't wait to see all of the acts.

Tiger Topics Health Quick Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



Poison Sumac



Poison Ivy in the spring (picture taken in mid-April in USDA zone 7a-7b). Notice that the young leaves are red and as they mature they turn their summer color of green. Characteristic 3 leaves with the middle leaf on a longer stalk.

Poison Ivy

Well I have seen it already! The dreaded poison ivy is back. Here are some interesting tips regarding these irritating plants:

- It is the Urushiol Oil that is the culprit with these plants [Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac]. Only a very tiny amount is needed to cause a reaction.
- 1-5 years is normal for this oil to stay active on any surface, even dead plants.
- POISON IVY RASH **IS NOT** CONTAGIOUS. You can only spread the rash if the oil is left on your hands.
- BREAKING THE BLISTERS OF A RASH **DOES NOT** SPREAD IT. The blisters contain only fluid produced by your body.
- The oil from the plant is the only thing that spreads the rash.
- **DO NOT BREAK THE BLISTERS** BECAUSE IT CAN CAUSE AN INFECTION. Instead, keep blistered areas covered with a gauze bandage if possible, especially on the hands and fingers.
- 90% of people are allergic to Urushiol oil. The more times you are exposed to it, the more likely it is that you will have a reaction.
- Rash usually occurs 24-48 hours after exposure. If swelling and blistering are rapid [within 4-12 hours of exposure], get emergency treatment. Go to the emergency department or call your doctor.

REMEMBER LEAVES OF THREE, LET THEM BE!!!!

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE- I still need more Blue Physical Forms! If a physical has not been scheduled please let me know. I need them by June 1st.

LOST BUT NOT FOUND: the lost and found is piled with mostly boys' jackets and sweatshirts. Please encourage your child to check it out. Consider putting their initials on the inside tag so we can try to narrow down whose it might be.

A Tiger's Breakfast

Did you know... Breakfast is available daily in the Emerson-Williams School cafeteria?

Students who eat breakfast have better concentration, are more alert and miss fewer days of school. Start your child's day in a healthy way!

What's on the menu? Visit Wethersfield.nutrislice.com to view the E-W Breakfast menu!

Do you have a healthy nut-free breakfast item or meal that your Tiger loves? Please share it with the E-W Community! Email it to tigertopics@ewpto.com for publication in our next newsletter.



Tiger Topics – Monthly Spotlight Article

Buddy Bench

By Will McKenna and Louie Montalvo

Emerson-Williams Elementary School has two Buddy Benches. One bench is located on the playground for the lower grades and the other is located near the basketball court for the upper grades. One of the Buddy Benches is from the PTO and the other was donated to Emerson-Williams by the 6th grade class of 2015-2016. The 6th graders wanted to leave it as a gift for the school when they left. It is there to help students who have no one to play with and it helps kids not feel lonely at recess. Kids can also make new friends using the Buddy Bench. One time we saw a classmate on the Buddy Bench when we were playing basketball. We went over to ask if he wanted to play with us. He stood up and told us he wanted to play with us. Then we played basketball together and he was very happy. Even our teachers agree that the Buddy Bench is a good idea. Second grade teacher Mr. Shoemaker said that “the Buddy Bench was a great idea because it helps kids solve problems and make friends.” Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Nunn said that “the Buddy Bench is a wonderful tool to help students find a friend.” The Buddy Bench is a very helpful item to students at Emerson-Williams.



Reminders

2017 EWPTO Meeting Schedule

The Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center on the following Thursdays: May 11 and June 8. Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting. Join us and find out how you can help this year or even next year. Plans are already underway for 2017-2018 school year.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Event – May 5 hosted by the First Grade

The next teacher/staff appreciation event will be held on Friday, May 5, 2017. The First Grade Room Parents and First Grade families will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo themed luncheon. To help with the event or to donate food/drinks/tableware, etc., please contact your First Grade Room Parents to sign up!

Volunteers Needed

Field Day - Mr. Coursey is in need of water station volunteers for Field day on May 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the E-W Lawn. Water jugs will need refilling to keep the students hydrated. There will be a station for K-2 and another for 3-6. Rain Date May 5.

EWPTO Board – Open positions are available for 1st Year Co-President (2 years), Treasurer and Secretary (1 year each) for the school year 2017-2018. If you are interested, please email nominations@ewpto.com.

Strawberry Festival - At this time, we are looking for people to help volunteer for the day and we will be creating a sign-up shortly to share! New activities have been added to the Strawberry Festival this year that are going to make the event even more FUN!! Look for more info in next month's Tiger Topics!

Book Fair – One or more volunteers are needed to organize the Book Fair for September 2017. Planning begins in June. If interested, please contact Darka Jara or Colleen Mattatall at ptoboard@ewpto.com.

Save The Dates!

Sponsored by EWPTO:

May 12 – Family Book Swap & Game Night, we are collecting books for ALL age groups, even grown-ups, from April 28 through May 8. For more info, contact Beth Gilbert at kajt0511@yahoo.com

June 1 – Jog-a-thon, we'll need tons of volunteers to help keep the children hydrated while they run their hearts out exercising for good health for a great cause, the EWPTO.

June 10 – Strawberry Festival, volunteers are needed for this annual day of childhood fun at Emerson-Williams. It takes a village and we know we can count on you to help us. For more information, contact strawberry.fest@ewpto.com

Sponsored by E-W Music Department:

June 6 – E-W Singers from grades 5 and 6 will sing the Star Spangled Banner on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 for the New Britain Bees. Game time is 6:35 p.m. Ticket information will be coming soon.

A Thank You From the Marcelynas Family

Dear EW PTO and families,

In a time of overwhelming grief, your kindness and generosity means so much to our family. Thank you for the fruit basket, easter lily

...and thanking God for you.

wind chime, cubby bears for the kids and the amazing flower pots filled with gift certificates. Please know we greatly appreciate everything and all the love and support we have received from the EW family. Thank you again for thinking of us at this difficult time.

you all will be remembered always. Love

Elda, Giuliat
James
Marcelynas



Hartford Yard Goats

Emerson-Williams School Day at Dunkin' Donuts Park

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 2017



GAME TIME: 1:35 pm | GATES OPEN: 12:35 pm
AKRON RUBBERDÜCKS (CLEVELAND INDIANS) vs
HARTFORD YARD GOATS (COLORADO ROCKIES)



Spend an afternoon at the ballpark with friends and family from Emerson-Williams Elementary School!

\$2 from every ticket pre-purchased goes back to support the Emerson-Williams PTO

Post-Game Kids Run The Bases!

Stay until the final out and run the bases just like the pros!



Ticket Order Deadline: May 8th 2017
Parking is an additional fee day of the game.

YardGoatsBaseball.com



860-246-GOAT (4628)



Emerson-Williams School Day at Dunkin' Donuts Park

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 2017

GAME TIME: 1:35 pm GATES OPEN: 12:35 pm



<u>TICKET TYPE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Field Box	\$12.00	X _____	= _____

Children 3 and under are free if sitting on a parent's lap during the game.
Please note any handicapped tickets needed.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____

GRADE: _____ CLASSROOM: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE SCHOOL WITH CASH
OR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **EWPTO**
PLEASE NOTE "YARD GOATS TICKETS" ON THE ENVELOPE.
QUESTIONS? CONTACT **James Langdo** AT **james_langdo@yahoo.com**



Teacher Appreciation Week



Monday, May 1st – Friday, May 5th



Monday, May 1



– Flowers for our Teachers – Please bring in a flower for your teacher, any color or kind! Collectively we'll create beautiful, unique bouquets for them!



Tuesday, May 2



– Please send in a box of tissues for your teacher's (ever vanishing) supply! They will be "blown away" with your generosity! 😊

NOTE CHANGE IN DATE:



Wednesday, May 3



– Favorite color – Please dress in your teacher's favorite color! Be creative and have fun with all the possibilities!

NOTE CHANGE IN DATE:



Thursday, May 4



Notes from the heart – Please have your child create a heartfelt note or picture for their beloved teacher. These are always the most meaningful. ❤️

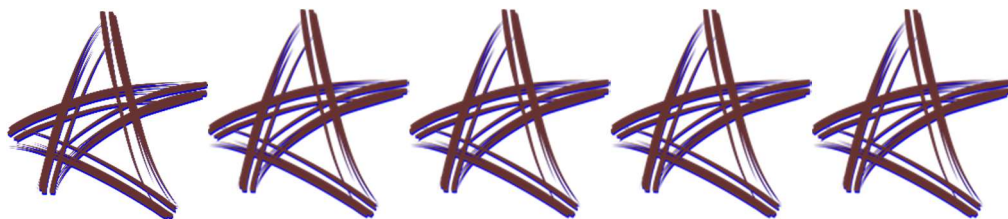


Friday, May 5



– Cinco De Mayo! Our first grade families will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo luncheon for the teachers. All are welcome to participate!

Please Note!! Monday, May 1st is also Principal's Day! And Friday, May 12th is Nurse's Day! Our fabulous PTO will be treating Ms. Thakur and Mrs. Ciarcia on these days, but it's always nice to show our appreciation as well! PTO will also be treating all the staff on Tuesday, May 9th – the actual Teacher's Appreciation Day. Thank you SO Much for all your help and support!

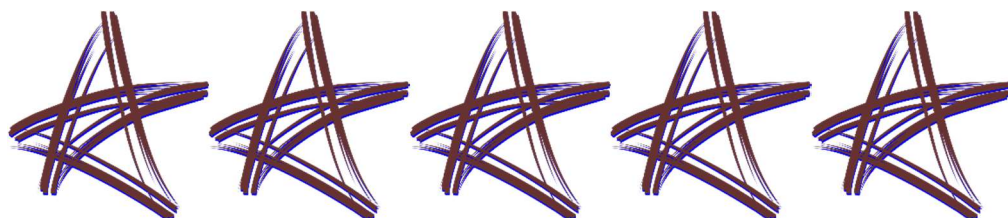


EMERSON-WILLIAMS P T O
Shining Stars
SHOWCASE

A VARIETY OF AMAZING ACTS, INCLUDING:
SINGING DANCING GYMNASTICS
MAGIC, INSTRUMENTS, SPIES,
ART AND MORE!!!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
Silas Deane Middle School
6PM

PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE BY FILLING OUT THIS FORM AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL BY THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH!
\$5 ADULTS / CHILDREN FREE
STUDENT NAME, TEACHER + GRADE: _____
OF ADULT TICKETS: _____
OF CHILD TICKETS: _____
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EWPTO



Screen free week

MAY 1-MAY 7, 2017 CHILDREN, FAMILIES – WHOLE COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS – WILL REDISCOVER THE JOYS OF LIFE BEYOND THE SCREEN. PLAN TO UNPLUG FROM DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT AND SPEND ALL THAT FREE TIME PLAYING, DAYDREAMING, CREATING, EXPLORING AND CONNECTING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS! ONE GREAT WAY TO UNPLUG IS READING BOOKS! SCREEN FREE WEEK IS ALSO CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK!

May 1, 11:30am-10:00pm Fundraiser Nights at Puerto Vallarta @ 2385 Berlin Turnpike, Newington and Froyo World @ 1107 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield. Mention Emerson-Williams 15% of proceeds to benefit Emerson-Williams PTO

May 2, 6:30-7:30pm Pajama Yoga Party with West Hartford Yoga @ Emerson-Williams Gymnasium! Come in your PJs, bring a Yoga mat if you have one (or one will be provided) and show us your downward facing dog

May 3, 6:00pm Emerson-Williams Shining Stars Talent Showcase featuring singers, dancers, spy acts and a piano player @ Silas Deane Middle School. Tickets are \$5 per adult, kids free.

May 4, 5:00-7:30pm Dinner and Music on the Lawn @ Emerson-Williams. Featuring **The Rents**, a local alternative rock band made up of EW Parents. Band members Ben Cowles, Sue Mattica and Charlene Mainville, will be joined by Miss Caravella and Dalis Irizarry (Ms. Thakur's daughter). Don't miss this exciting evening!!

The Family Brick Oven Pizza Truck will be on-site selling pizza by the slice or pie, and drinks too. Cash/Credit Cards accepted. *Please no pets at this event.*

May 5, Anytime Go Bowling with your friends and family @ Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama, 2143 Berlin Turnpike, Newington. Check bowloramact.com for BOGO free game coupon.

May 6, 3:00-6:00pm Scavenger Hunt, Nature Walk and Picnic @ Mill Woods BYOP – Bring Your Own Picnic Dinner, some chairs, or blanket and meet your EW friends at the Pavilion.

May 7, Do Your Own Family Thing Take a walk or hike with the family? Or check out community events such as the 34th Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger (12:30 Hartford), visit one of the local museums, or just spend the day playing games or reading books! And congrats for making it a week screen-free.

All children must be accompanied by an adult to all events.

For questions, please contact tv.turnoff@ewpto.com

EVENTS

MAY 1 PUERTO VALLARTA AND FROYO

MAY 2 PAJAMA YOGA

MAY 3 TALENT SHOW

MAY 4 LIVE MUSIC & DINNER ON THE LAWN

MAY 5 BOWLING

MAY 6 SCAVENGER HUNT

MAY 7 DO YOUR OWN THING



westhartfordyoga



Become a 2017 – 2018 Emerson-Williams Tiger Topics Sponsor!!

**Do you own a business or have a family member that does?
Advertise for the entire school for as little as \$50!
That's 10 issues that reach 319 families!
WHAT A DEAL!!!**

Tiger Topics is a PTO school newsletter distributed to approximately 319 families of students and staff from Emerson-Williams Elementary School. The publication contains information of interest to families of elementary school students and is published from September to June. It is distributed online at www.ewpto.com, posted on the Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Facebook page, emailed to our PTO email distribution list, and sent home with students in print.

Your advertisement helps support the education of hundreds of Wethersfield children! Proceeds will be used for enrichment programs and assemblies, technology purchases, family fun nights, and much more.

Please consider supporting Emerson-Williams PTO by placing your ad/message/coupon in our newsletter. We will allocate space for all 10 issues based on the following rates:

- \$50 for a business card ad (Dimensions: 3.5"w x 2"h)
- \$100 for quarter of a page (Dimensions: 3.5"w x 4.25"h)
- \$200 for half a page (Dimensions: 7.25"w x 4.25"h)
- \$400 for a full page ad (Dimensions: 7.25"w x 8.75"h)

Thank you for your time, and we hope to hear from you soon. Advertisement deadline is 8/31/2017.

Email your information to tigertopics@ewpto.com along with the image file attached. A check can be made out to EWPTO and sent in an envelope marked Leslie Williams, Attn: Tiger Topics Ad, Emerson-Williams PTO, 461 Wells Rd., Wethersfield, CT 06109.

Company Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature of Responsible Person: _____

Emerson-Williams annual Strawberry Festival

SAVE THE DATE!

June 10, 2017

10:00am - 2:00pm

Emerson-Williams

Elementary School Grounds

**JOIN US FOR A
BERRY-LICIOUS
DAY OF
FOOD, MUSIC,
GAMES
AND FUN!**

