

**2010-2011 PTO
MEETING
SCHEDULE**

April 14
May 12
June 9

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Tiger Topics

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

APRIL 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

On Friday, April 8th, Adam Assi, Michael Gionfriddo, Jason Maulicci and Nate Sommers participated in an Honors Chorus sponsored by the National Association for Music Education. The National Association for Music Education is among one of the largest education organizations in the world. These fifth grade students were chosen for their musical ability, and Ms. Fox coached and accompanied them to this event that was held at the Hartford Convention Center.

In order to foster a sense of community and responsible student behavior, the Student Council along with the teacher leaders of the Student Council, have initiated weekly recognition of students who display one of the pillars of character that is featured for the week. The characteristic, such as cooperation, is announced at the beginning of the week and classroom teachers submit names of students who demonstrate cooperation. On Friday, these students' names are announced over the public address system, and a picture of the students is displayed on the Pillars of Character Bulletin Board.

Emerson-Williams is now in its seventh year of involvement with the award

winning Discovery Center program. The Discovery Center is a non-profit organization begun in 1992 and is committed to bringing together students from urban, suburban and rural communities in central Connecticut in order to shape positive attitudes about racial and cultural differences. The Discovery Center pairs schools from different communities; our sister school for the past five years has been Kinsella Magnet School for the Performing Arts. Students from Emerson-Williams join their sister school peers in a camp experience at Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, Connecticut. In fourth grade, our students attend a one day orientation and while in fifth grade, the students attend for four nights and five days. In sixth grade, our students attend for two nights and three days. Our sixth grade students attended camp from April 6th through the 8th, and our fifth grade students will attend from May 2nd through May 6th. The students and Emerson-Williams teachers that attend are extremely enthusiastic about the experience.

I know that the PTO has worked diligently to plan a week of exciting events for TV Turn Off week during April 11th through April 15th. I hope that many families will be able to attend the offerings during that week.

Who Wants a Popcorn Party?

Bring in Box Tops for Education by April 30, and your class could WIN a Popcorn Party! Box Tops should be returned to your classroom teacher. At the end of April, the Box Tops will be counted. The classroom with the most wins! Please contact Amber Kiniry 860.529.4400 if you have any questions.



PTO Highlights

Happy Spring! Have you noticed the flowers popping up around the school grounds? It is a wonderful reminder that warm weather is just around the corner.

Also around the corner is TV Turn Off week! We have planned lots of fun activities to keep you and your family busy—be sure to read the details on page 4. By turning off the television, families are making a statement. We are saying that communication with one another is important. We are saying that time spent together in other activities is important. We are making a decision to not let television media run our lives, but rather to use television as a tool.

Another big event on the horizon is the Strawberry Fest. We have already started recruiting teachers for the dunk tank, testing out kid-friendly “Minute To Win It” style games and securing great raffle gifts. We have lots of new and exciting plans, wait until you see!

We are in the process of planning next year’s PTO budget. If you have feedback regarding fundraisers you would like to see or programs we should offer, feel free to contact any of the PTO officers. We will also be holding an open meeting for parents to offer their feedback—the date and time will be announced shortly.

Now is also the time to begin thinking about taking a leadership position in the PTO, whether as an officer or as a committee chair. Sign-ups for next year’s committees will begin at the May 12 PTO meeting.

Regards,

Paula Heinzmann - 2nd year Co-President
 Andrea Ginter - 1st year Co-President

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up:

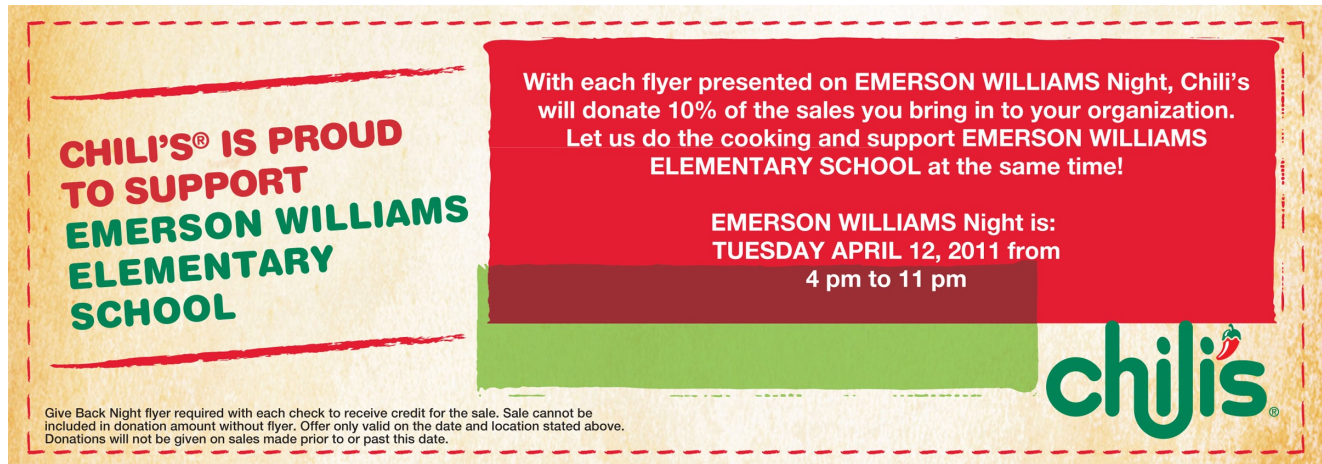
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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 4/11–4/15 | TV Turn Off Week: |
| Monday, 4/11 | Barnes & Noble Bookfair |
| Monday, 4/11 | WSPC Community Budget Forum |
| Tuesday, 4/12 | Chili’s Restaurant Night |
| Wednesday, 4/13 | Bingo Night |
| Thursday, 4/14 | Budget presentation |
| Thursday, 4/14 | PTO Meeting |
| Friday, 4/15 | Sock Hop |
| Friday, 4/15 | Spirit Day: Earth Day |
| Monday, 4/18 | Public Forum on Town Budget |
| Sunday, 5/1 | Rock Cats Game |
| Thursday, 5/5 | Poetry Night |
| Saturday, 6/11 | Strawberry Fest |



For a full listing of all upcoming events, please visit www.ewpto.com.

What's for dinner?

Below is the coupon to bring with you on Tuesday, April 12 when you come to the Berlin Turnpike Chili's for dinner. Give yourself a rest from cooking and help our school at the same time! We will also be raffling a gift basket which includes a Chili's gift card and more, tickets are only \$1.00 each and will be for sale that night at the restaurant. Thanks to all the teachers and staff who have volunteered to change careers for a night and work as servers.



PTO Meeting Time/Location Change



So that everyone may attend the interim superintendent's budget presentation (which takes place at Webb at 6:30pm on Thursday, April 14), we have changed the location and start time of the April PTO meeting. Our PTO meeting will take place at 7:30pm in the Webb Media Center. Due to the time and venue change, we are unable to offer babysitting for this meeting—we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



Sock Hop Details ...



Friday April 15, 7-9 PM
Emerson-Williams

Wear your favorite poodle skirt or leather jacket and come celebrate the end of T.V. turn off week. Enjoy an evening of dancing, games, contests & refreshments. Bring your camera—a photo station will be set up.

Come do the twist like Chubby Checker or Elvis Presley.

Learn some trivia:
Who was James Dean? What is a Jukebox?
Questions about the event contact
Janet Vasel ajavasel@cox.net



TV Turn Off Week Details

Are you ready for TV Turn Off week? We have lined up a variety of great activities for you:

Monday, April 11:

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Head over to the Glastonbury Barnes & Noble between 3pm and 9pm for some spring book shopping. E-W will receive a percentage of in-store and online sales. Mrs. Corsair will be leading a brief story time beginning at 4:00pm. See you there!

WSPC Community Budget Forum

There will be a presentation of the proposed 2011-2012 budget followed by questions and answers. The meeting will take place at the SDMS auditorium from 7pm–9pm.

Tuesday, April 12:

Restaurant Night at Chili's

Grab your family and head to dinner at Chili's on the Berlin Turnpike. Let the teachers serve you! In case you missed it, details are on page 3.

Wednesday, April 13:

Bingo Night

Join us for a fun night of bingo! Admission is just \$1 per student. See the details on page 6.

Thursday, April 14:

Superintendent's Budget Presentation

Come hear about next year's proposed budget straight from Dr. McDowell. The presentation begins at 6:30pm in the Webb Auditorium and includes a question and answer time.

PTO Meeting

We have lots of great things planned for this spring, come to the meeting and get involved! Due to Dr. McDowell's presentation, our meeting will take place beginning at 7:30pm in the Webb Media Center (unfortunately, no childcare will be available).

Friday, April 15:

Sock Hop

Cap the week off with some old-fashioned fun! The details were on page 3.

Jog-A-Thon



Plans for the Third Annual Jog-A-Thon are up and “running”. A date and more information are forthcoming. Stay tuned!

Appreciation Day

Appreciation Day is coming soon! Keep your eyes out for date and time information about this special day during which each student honors someone special in his/her life.



CREATIVE ARTS UPDATE



Thank you to ALL of you who donated for the Creative Arts program! We just had another program—OPERA WORKS—on April 6th. So please ask your child about it and keep them exposed to ART!

Community News ...

Congratulations to the seventh grade Robotics team at SDMS who won FIRST PLACE at the VEX Robotics competition at CCSU Sunday, April 3rd. They have been invited to the WORLD Championships in Kissimmee, Florida in two weeks.

Student Recognition

Congratulations to Mirhad Gobelic in grade 2 and Danae Woozencroft in grade 1. Mirhad’s tar beach collage and Danae’s family portrait were chosen to represent Emerson-Williams School in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/ Wethersfield Public School Youth Art appreciation Program.

Strawberry Fest Update

Plans for this year’s Strawberry Fest are going well! Thanks to everyone who participated in our online survey—we have listened! Your clear favorites are the dunk tank, bouncers and cake walk. We are also planning some new games and activities—stay tuned for more details. We are sure that you will be very excited to hear about all the great things we have planned!



Join us at Emerson-Williams on Wednesday, April 13 for Bingo Night! Doors will open at 6:00pm for you to get your seat, grab a snack and purchase your raffle tickets. The first Bingo game will begin promptly at 6:30pm.

Here's how it works:

Admission is just \$1 per student (students must be accompanied by an adult). Bingo prizes will consist of \$5 gift cards to retailers such as Target, Toys "R" Us, Main St. Creamery, The Wooden Toy and more! After winning once, students will receive a token prize for subsequent wins.

Also, you are invited to bring the following to share:



Families with last name A-I

Families with last name J-S

Families with last name T-Z

Dessert or fruit

Bottled water or juice boxes/pouches

Pretzels, chips or other munchies



Raffle prizes include newly released movies and video games, a bicycle, books, a waterproof mini camcorder, gift cards, Red Sox and Yankees apparel and more! Some of our many raffle items are pictured below. We will also be holding a 50/50 raffle.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com or 860-251-9125. See you there!



Strawberry Fest Classroom Baskets



Dear Emerson- Williams Parents,

The Emerson- Williams Annual Strawberry Festival is almost here. We are in need of raffle donations to make our class "Theme Baskets" that were such a huge success last year. We have listed the classroom themes below along with some suggestions. These are only suggestions and any donation would be extremely appreciated.

- Kindergarten Disney Basket (Anything Disney- games, movies, toys, snacks...)
- 1st Grade Book/Reading Basket (Children's books, bookmarks, gift cards to a book store...)
- 2nd Grade Summer Fun Basket (summer toys, sunscreen, beach towels...)
- 3rd Grade Family Game Night Basket (Board games, cards, puzzles...)
- 4th Grade Arts and Craft Basket (Construction paper, crayons, craft kits...)
- 5th Grade Movie Basket (DVDs, popcorn, popcorn bowls...)
- 6th Grade School Supplies Basket (paper, notebook, folders...)

We ask that your child bring the donated item to their class and we will pick up the items and make the baskets for the Festival. All items must be brought to the school by **Friday, May 27th**. As always, on behalf of the PTO, we appreciate your continued support. We would not succeed without generous and continued parental support. Thanks for your time and donations and we will see you at the Strawberry Festival!

A Few Final Notes of Thanks ...

Thank you to Michele Livingston for coordinating Spring Picture Day on March 25.

Thanks to Kelly Weinberg for making Movie Night happen. A good time was had by all!

Thank you to Lauren Barbara for coordinating this month's teacher appreciation event.

Thanks to Michelle Bosco for heading up our spring Yankee Candle fundraiser!

THANKS!



A FREE SEMINAR FOR PARENTS

A Parent's Toolbox for Risky Behavior

featuring **Dr. Joyce Walter**,
Director of Health and Wellness @ Wesleyan University

and

MADD POWERTALK 21

The Power of Parents

Lauren Iannucci

MADD produced Parent Handbook for all attendees

Q & A / Discussion to follow

Thursday, April 28, 7pm

Wethersfield Town Hall, Council Chambers

Wethersfield High School Music Boosters

Spring



Bottle and Can Drive

(Returnable Only Please)

Saturday April 30th

8:00am – 12:00 Noon

Silas Deane Middle School



Support the **Wethersfield High School Band,
Orchestra and Color Guard**

Tell family, friends and neighbors to bring their returnable bottles and cans to the driveway of Silas Deane Middle School

Saturday April 30th

Volunteers will be available to take the bottle and cans out of your car.

Proceeds from this fundraiser are used to purchase instruments, equipment and uniforms for the Award Winning WHS Marching Band, Color Guard and Orchestra

