



Tiger Topics School Newsletter

EMERSON-WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

WELCOME TO
EMERSON-WILLIAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
WWW.EWPTO.COM

FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Seasons Greetings Emerson-Williams, Did everyone enjoy their Thanksgiving recess? The 6th grade committee had their wood pallet fundraiser which yielded beautiful custom designs. As we write this, the holiday store is slated for Thursday. If you're not familiar with the holiday store, the kids enter the gym alone to shop for their family, pets, or friends. Sixth grade elves are available to help the younger grades shop. Once the kids have their selections, they cash out and each item is wrapped. In an effort to keep the lines moving this year, the store will be restocked at two different times. Being a big Christmas dork, this is one of my favorite events the PTO puts on. Thank you for everyone's efforts in putting this fun event together.

December will soon be upon us... our fundraisers continue with the Battle of the Schools at Scoops and Sprinkles on December 1 and 2 and Puerto Vallarta night on December 3. We understand that eating tacos and ice cream is hard work... but do it for the kids. Our annual Craft and Vendor Fair, on December 7th, is a wonderful oppor-



tunity to shop local put together by our vendor divas Rebecca and Nathalie. We'd like to see more Emerson families come out to support the event and vendors as it benefits our children. Bring the family, shop local, or buy a raffle ticket.

Additionally, there's Hanukkah, December solstice, Festivus, Christmas, Kwanzaa and perhaps other holidays we're unfamiliar with. Holiday recess begins on December 24th until we welcome 2019.

No matter what your religious or spiritual beliefs, now is a time to look around you. Find something wonderful or spiritual in yourself, your life, and the important people who make life special. Appreciate those around you as one day they will only be a memory. Sure, presents are nice, but the memories are better. Dr. Seuss said it best, "He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe Christmas, he thought...doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps...means a little bit more!" So, whether you

(continued on page 4)

Teacher Luncheon

The Cheer/Teacher Appreciation committee is looking for Thanksgiving themed items for December's Holiday Teacher/Staff Luncheon on Wednesday, December 5th. Items should be dropped off at the school between 8am and 10am Wednesday morning. Please bring the items to the teacher's lounge. The event is slated for 7:30am to 2pm. Contact cheer.committee@ewpto.com with questions you may have. A sign up genius is available online. No need to stay for the luncheon.

2018 comes to an end

The Emerson-Williams PTO Board would like to wish you and your family a wonderful year fully loaded with happiness, success, and prosperity. May 2019 bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements and a lot of new inspiration. Do you have cultural New Year traditions? Share with us at tigertopics@ewpto.com

2019 PTO Meetings

Emerson-Williams
Upper Media Center at
Emerson-Williams at 7:00 p.m.

January 10, February 7,
March 14, April 18,
May 9 & June 6

EWPTO Event Calendar

December 1 & 2

2018 Battle of the Schools - Scoops and Sprinkles
Extra dates to boost funds for EW

December 3

Puerto Vallarta Fundraiser Night
Dine in or take out - 3pm to 8pm

Scoops and Sprinkles winner announcement

December 5

Cheer Committee Teacher/Staff Luncheon

December 7

Vendor Fair

December 24 - 31

No School - Holiday Recess



January 1

No School - New Year's Day

January 5

Mens' UConn basketball vs. Central Florida
XL Center, Hartford CT • 12pm

January 10

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media
Center at Emerson-Williams

January 21

No School - MLK Day

February - TBA

Family Activity Night or Restaurant Fundraiser

February 7

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media
Center at Emerson-Williams

February 8

EW Talent Showcase at Webb School

February 13

Cheer Committee Teacher/Staff Luncheon

February 15

No School - Professional Development

February 18, 19

No School - Winter Recess

February 22

Munson Chocolates fundraiser

EW Talent Showcase Snow Date at Webb School

March - TBA

Family Activity Night

Box Tops Collection

March 11

Munson Chocolates fundraiser ends

March 14

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media
Center at Emerson-Williams

March 19

Half Day of School - 12:55 Dismissal

March 21

Half Day of School - 12:55 Dismissal

April - TBA

Mixed Bags Fundraiser

April 8 - 12

No School - Spring Recess

April 18

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media
Center at Emerson-Williams

April 19

No School - Good Friday

May - TBA

Poetry Afternoon

May 5

Cheer Committee Teacher/Staff Luncheon

May 9

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Upper Media
Center at Emerson-Williams

May 19

Yard Goats Game

May 27

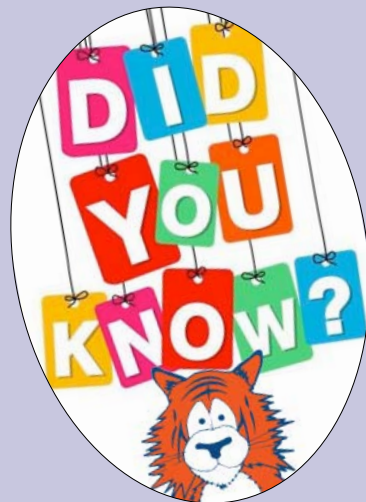
No School - Memorial Day

June - TBA

Strawberry Festival

June 13

Tentative Last Day of School



Have a great idea? Can't make a meeting? Have a suggestion?

Go to <http://www.ewpto.com> and click on the "Send Us Your Ideas" button on the right side on the main page. Include your name or send it anonymously.

New to Emerson-Williams? Take a peak at our 'New Parent Information' located on our website. Visit <http://www.ewpto.com/newparents.html>

Still have questions? Click the 'Contact Us' button on our website, email PTOboard@ewpto.com, or contact the Emerson-Williams at 860-571-8360.

Cultural Corner

From Art Educator Ms. Richard

This year in art each grade will be studying a different culture from around the world! We will focus on Poland in Kindergarten, Chinese New Year in 1st, African masks and Kente cloths in 2nd grade, Japanese brush painting in 3rd grade, Native American textiles in 4th, and the art of India in 5th. 6th graders just finished learning about the history and traditions of Dia de los Muertos. We watched a wonderful documentary outlining the history of its creation and the melding of the Spanish and Zapotec Indian traditions to form this important celebration. 6th graders created cardboard relief Calaveras (skulls) where they had the option to honor a loved one who has passed through symbols and details in their art. There were many wonderful connections shared, and we also took the opportunity to discuss cultural stories and traditions the 6th graders participate in at home. One student compared the Turkish food they eat at home to dishes another student from Nepal loves! Sharing these stories and learning about cultures around them through art and artifacts is a wonderful opportunity for your children to see the similarities and differences that make each culture unique and special.

Please feel free to contact me at erichard@wethersfield.me if you have any experiences with the cultures we will be studying. We would love to have parent visitors share!

From Principal, Ms. Thakur

Like so many people, I come from a mixed cultural and ethnic background. I am 50% Asian Indian, and 50% Italian. My father was born in India, and came to the United States to attend medical school when he was just 17 years old. My name is Indian, and my first name (Neela) means "blue." My grandmother's name was Susheela, and my aunt's name was Suneela, so this is basically where my name comes from. I have been to India three times. I love Indian food! My father cooked Indian food a lot for us at home when I was little, and my children and I love eating at Indian restaurants. We have a very high tolerance for spicy foods! When I was in middle school, I remember being bullied for being Indian. I've always had thick skin, so this didn't really affect me too much, but I certainly do remember it. My mom is Italian. Her maiden name is Belardinelli. Her great grandparents were born in Italy. I have been to Italy once. I also love Italian food. Italian food is the featured food at all of our family gatherings. My ex-husband is 100% Puerto Rican, and lived in Puerto Rico up until he was in fifth grade. I have been to Puerto Rico three times. My two children are 50% Puerto Rican, 25% Asian Indian, and 25% Italian. Both of my children have Hispanic names (Alexis and Idalis Irizarry). My children take great pride in all parts of their ethnic and cultural background. We all love Puerto Rican food as well! On their dad's side of the family, my children have a million aunts, uncles, and cousins, and they really enjoy spending time with their Puerto Rican extended family. I still enjoy spending time with them as well! My children and I are very proud of our cultural heritage.



Share your culture in Tiger Topics and with the Emerson-Williams Elementary School's community.

Like many other schools, Emerson-Williams is made up of students from many different backgrounds. We invite parents, students and staff to share your culture in Tiger Topics. Send your article or questions to Tigertopics@ewpto.com

Co-Presidents' Desk continued

(continued from page 1)



enjoy looking like a deranged Easter Bunny or smiling because it's your favorite... take a moment to acknowledge all the fortunate parts of your life and appreciate someone or something that often goes unrecognized.

Additionally, we would like to thank the members of Emerson-Williams PTO. Without the countless volunteer hours, the

PTO would not function and provide such wonderful activities and events. Our volunteers are vital. Everyone who donates their time to the PTO is a caregiver to family members whether it be to children, significant others, parents, or grandparents. Some of us work full-time, part-time, multiple jobs or do not have a paying job. In today's fast-paced life, we are all busy and we understand that volunteering can take up even more of our time, but volunteer opportunities come in a variety of commitment levels. But we do what we can because we want to do right for our children, support our school, and our community. We thank you for your time and efforts.

In the spirit of the holiday, we would like to remind you that connecting with others can fill a heart so much more than a material gift. You will never lose out from being kind to someone, especially when you do not expect anything in return. Remember to never assume what someone else is going through. Show love and kindness to others because you never know if they really need it. You might be that bright light for them in a time of darkness.

Finally, we would like to remind you our next PTO meeting is Thursday, January 10th, 2019 at 7pm in the Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams. It'd be nice to see you... stop in.

Σου εύχομαι υγεία, ευτυχία και επιτυχία για τη νέα χρονιά (translation from Greek: Wishing you health, happiness and success in the New Year).

With peace & love, salt & trolls, and rainbows & unicorns,

Chrissy Pikos, 1yrpres@ewpto.com &
Autumn Struk, 2yrpres@ewpto.com
Co-Presidents, EWPTO

Open Committees & Volunteer Opportunities

Copy Crew: Individuals who can come into the school and make copies for the entire school on an as-needed basis. Random texts are sent to all members and whoever can make it, can reply to all and volunteer. *Occurs sporadically throughout the year as needed.*

Community Outreach: Committee members organize different community outreach opportunities for E-W to participate in. Examples: collection of food, cleaning products, or personal hygiene items. Coordinate with Wethersfield Social Services or other local organization. *Occurs in sporadically throughout the year.*

Mixed Bags Designs: The chair establishes and runs fundraising project to raise funds for the general PTO fund. *Typically occurs in April.*

Poetry Afternoon: Committee members coordinate with Reading Teacher, Ms. McLaughlin, to help set up the spring poetry afternoon. *Typically occurs in the Spring.*

Website: Responsible for maintaining and making updates to the PTO website and Facebook page. Behind the scene work includes creating email forwarders, creating SignUp Genius, scanning flyers, inputting events into Google Calendar, and renewing website domain. Looking for volunteer to start next year. Please contact webmaster@ewpto.com for more information.

Please visit

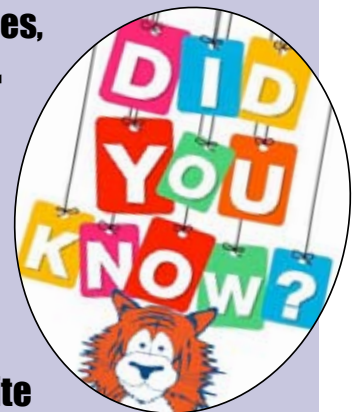
www.ewpto.com/committees.html

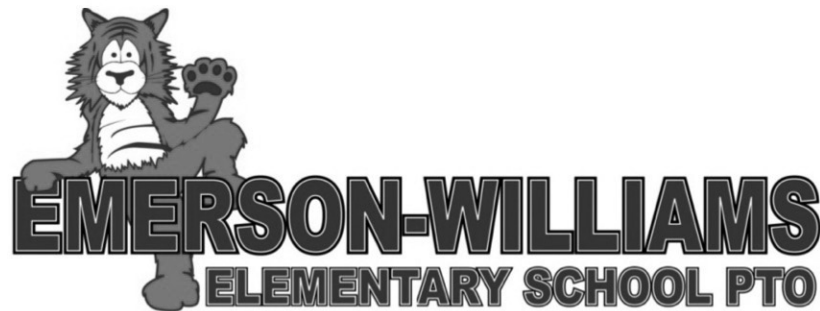
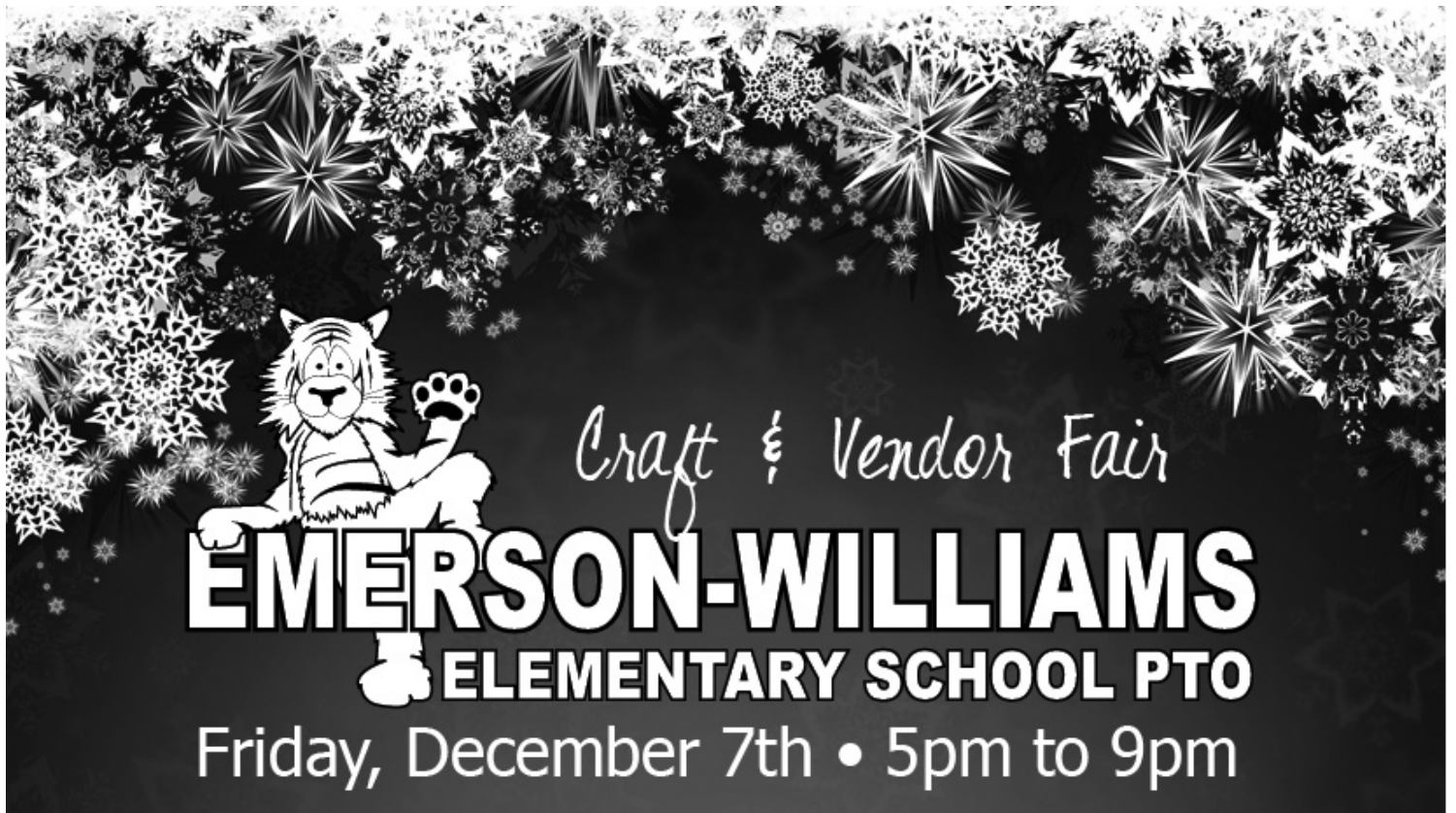
**for a full list of committees,
sign up sheets, and their
direct email addresses.**

**Don't recall who your
room parents are?**

Fear not... visit our website

**(www.ewpto.com) for a list of room
parents. Direct link: [www.ewpto.com/
roomparentlist.htm](http://www.ewpto.com/roomparentlist.htm)**





EAT OUT (or order in!) to benefit the PTO!

Monday, December 3rd

3-8pm

Puerto Vallarta Restaurant,

2385 Berlin Tnpk, Newington

Wear your EW Tigers Apparel!

Our sponsors

Support our sponsors!



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**EMERSON-WILLIAMS
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO**

Do you own a business?

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BASKETBALL.

ITS A CONNECTICUT THING.

Emerson-Williams Elementary Day!

**UConn Men's Basketball
vs. Central Florida**

Saturday, January 5th | 12:00 PM
XL Center, Hartford CT

- Great Seats Together
- Video Board Recognition
- Special Priced ticket for all Emerson-Williams members along with family and friends!
- Chance to watch the Huskies take on their conference foe UCF Knights!
- \$14 per ticket (\$2 of the ticket price benefits EW PTO)

Student Name _____

Teacher & Grade _____

of Tickets Requested _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please submit ticket requests by Monday December 17th. Checks can be made out to EW PTO. Contact James Langdo uconn.game@ewpto.com for more information.

UConnHuskies.com/Groups





2018 Battle of the Schools

8 Schools. 2 Towns. 1 Winner.



Free for All Weekend!

All schools have an opportunity to raise their totals and take home the grand prize this weekend! Stop in & let us know which school you are supporting!

Saturday Dec. 1st 12pm-9:30pm

Sunday Dec. 2nd 12pm-9pm

Winning School will get 10% of ALL Schools Sales & a Tutoring You To Excellence Gift Certificate!

Scoops & Sprinkles

2229 Silas Deane Highway Rocky Hill
(next to Subway & Chucks)



ARTIST'S CORNER

**Show off your masterpiece at this
year's Shining Stars Talent
Showcase!**

Submit an art piece to Mrs. Richard's classroom by Friday, January 25th, 2019. Entries must be an original piece created outside of the classroom, no bigger than 16x20, and can be a painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, or ANYTHING! Let those creative juices flow! Be sure to fill out the form below and return with your entry.

Art Entry Form

Student Name: _____

Artwork Title: _____

Grade: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Cub Scout Pack 85



Annual Christmas Tree Pickup



\$10.00 Donation per Tree

All proceeds support

Cub Scout Pack 85

of Wethersfield



Two easy ways to set up a pickup!

1. Email WethersfieldPack85@gmail.com OR
2. Call 860-316-4771 and leave a message

Either way, just let us know your address, phone number, and what weekend you would like your tree to be picked up. You can either leave a check for us or mail a check to: **Cub Scout Pack 85**

c/o Tony Centurelli
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Wethersfield, CT 06109

