



# Tiger Topics

# EMERSON-WILLIAMS

DECEMBER 2010

## 2010-2011 PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

- December 9
- January 13
- February 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9

All meetings take place at 7pm in the Upper Media Center and child care is available for school aged children.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>PTO Highlights</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Holiday Store Recap</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Karen Lewis Fundraiser</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Thanks</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Directory Updates</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Student Recognition</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Updates</b>	<b>6</b>

## From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

The beginning of December has been proven to be busy and exciting for our students. The Holiday Store on November 30<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the PTO and chaired by Mrs. Barbara and Mrs. Kiniry was a huge success. The Chorale Concert on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Instrumental concert on December 6<sup>th</sup> showcased the students' talents and were examples of the implementation of our music curriculum.

Parents should be receiving their child's Degree of Reading Power score. This test was administered in the fall to students in grades 2-6. The Degrees of Reading Power Test assesses students' ability to read non-fiction texts. Students in grades 3-6 will be administered CREC (Capitol Region Education Council) benchmarks in reading and math during the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>. The results of these assessments will help teachers further analyze the strengths and

weaknesses in these subject areas. In addition, the results will also guide the teachers' instruction.

The second grade team of teachers (Mrs. LaFleche, Mr. Shoemaker and Mrs. Reynolds) has again spearheaded our annual "Mitten Tree". Students are asked for donations of new mittens, gloves and scarves. These items will be donated to Wethersfield Social and Youth Services. The tree is located in the media center, and it looks quite festive with all of the donations. Selected second graders also announce the "Mitten Tree" project every morning during school wide announcements.

I hope that all of the families and members of the Emerson-Williams Community have a restful, healthy and peaceful holiday season and New Year.

## Emerson-Williams Kids Got Talent!

Mark your calendars NOW! The annual Emerson-Williams Talent Show will take place on Friday, February 11 at Wethersfield High School. This annual event is always a big hit—and this year, there will be no March Madness conflict!

Students are invited to showcase their acts on Wednesday, January 5. Any students interested in performing in the talent show should be prepared to demonstrate up to a minute of the act. For the show, each act must be 3 minutes or less in length.

What types of acts belong in the show? Talents of all kinds will be considered—singing, dancing, poetry reading, playing instruments, comedy acts, juggling. Simply put, anything with a WOW factor.

So when the kids are bored and looking for something to do this holiday vacation, that's the perfect time to work on an act for the talent show!

# PTO Highlights

The holiday season will be over before we know it, but there has been so much work going into the spirit of the holidays right here at Emerson-Williams. For example, our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Store, where we have to give a special “thank-you” to Lauren Barbara and Amber Kiniry for stepping up and chairing this huge event for the first time! They did a fantastic job and we are so lucky to have them as part of our Emerson-Williams PTO family! From hours of planning, shopping and storing the gifts, Lauren and Amber have really done an outstanding job. We were also very grateful for all the parents who volunteered to help out during the event, I think that is the most volunteers we’ve ever had at the Holiday Store! It just goes to show you how smoothly and exciting an event can run with your help! So give yourselves a pat on the back because you are all the reason we have so much to celebrate! I hope we’ll have this many parents volunteering for the rest of our big events coming up, including Strawberry Festival in June!

Continuing on with our busy holiday season, we thank Ms. Fox for all her hard work with our students as she, once again, presented us with a beautiful holiday concert. The students did such a wonderful job singing and entertaining us, it really shows how much hard work went into this event.

To end a very busy week, we must say “thank you” to Michele LaVoie, Kat Zapor, and Janet Vasel for working together to hold our annual Vendor Night! What a special time for families to come and shop for the holidays while supporting our local vendors.

The sixth graders have been very busy with their fundraisers, hopefully you had a chance to support them by purchasing a pie, or a beautiful poinsettia plant. There are many fun events still to come, and we can’t thank you all enough for your volunteer time. The more volunteers we have, the more events we can offer.

My PTO Co-President, Andrea Ginter, almost single-handedly provided us with babysitting during the whole week of parent/teacher conferences. We are so lucky that she volunteered her time, as well as a few others, so we could attend our parent/teacher conferences without having to worry about our children. For those few that were able to help, we really appreciate it and we thank you!

On behalf of the PTO, we wish you and your families all a very happy, healthy holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

Paula Heinzmann - 2<sup>nd</sup> year Co-President  
Andrea Ginter - 1<sup>st</sup> year Co-President

## Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, 12/23

Wednesday, 1/5

Friday, 1/28

Friday, 2/11

Spirit Day—Hat Day

Showcase for Talent Show

Pasta Dinner sponsored by 6th grade

2011 Emerson-Williams Talent Show



For a full listing of all upcoming events, please visit [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com).

# Holiday Store Update

Wow! It's already December, the holiday rush is in full swing and everyone's purchases from the Emerson-Williams Holiday Store are wrapped and under their trees! This is the first year Lauren Barbara and I chaired this event. We were a bit taken aback by everything that goes into this endeavor. Jackie Malizia and Maureen Sullivan, who ran this since its inception, made everything seem so seamless. I want to thank them for all their help both with the planning tips, their support throughout the year, and all their help on the night of the event. A few things we could never have been prepared for was how much fun this event really is and how rewarding it is to be part of it. The looks of excitement on the children's faces and the glowing compliments from the parents really were heart warming.

Holiday Store this year was truly a SUCCESS! The only way an event of this magnitude could be successful is with a ton of amazing volunteers. And we had the best, most hard working volunteers we could have ever dreamed up! Including the committee, parent volunteers, teacher volunteers, junior high and high school students, and 6th grade "elves", we had over 60

volunteers! I would love to list everyone but that's not possible. Please know that without ALL of you there is no way we could have pulled this off.

I want to give a huge round of applause to our committee! They had fantastic ideas that we implemented to help everything run smoother. There is no way Holiday Store would have happened without the committee. From brainstorming sessions to heavy lifting the night of set up and breakdown, to wrapping and organizing and food duty... our committee was indispensable! A huge thank you to Eileen McKenna for being our food guru! Knowing that Eileen had everything in the cafe totally under control made it much easier to focus on the store and the kids. We really need to thank Jen Derick, Kim Schuster and Sandie Osgood for running the display tables, and most of all keeping us calm and centered. Also, I don't know what we would have done without Andrea Ginter! Andrea created all the beautiful gift tags, made all the copies and was always there to do anything needed.

Kat Zapor and Michele Livingston ran the bake Sale to benefit 6th grade. They did a great job! An additional thank you to Michele, who was the go-to person for the 6th grade "elves". She did a great job scheduling them and

making sure they were on task. The 6th graders were great! The younger kids really were excited to have a "big" kid help them shop.

We also had tons of other support. We have to send out a special thank you to Macy's for donating the shopping bags, Mr. Discenza and the custodial staff for helping with the boxes and bringing in more tables, and as always Leo's Pizza who is always willing to have pizza hot and ready for us! Also, thanks to Mr. Coursey for taking down the gym equipment to make room for us, and to Mrs. Catarius for wrapping gifts all night. If we forgot anyone, please know that we really are very thankful for all you did. Chalk up the memory loss to holiday madness. Lastly, Lauren and I really need to thank our husbands. Stu and John were very supportive and put up with us and the 3,000 items that took up lots of square footage in our homes!

We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, and really look forward to doing this again next year!

Amber Kiniry  
Holiday Store Co-Chair



# Please Join Us

**Karen DiBattista Lewis**, our friend, neighbor, life-long resident of Wethersfield, graduate of Wethersfield High School - class of 1980, is battling Breast Cancer.



Karen is a single mother of two children and self-employed and co-owner of Shear Precision Salon on the Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield.

She is a respected and valued member of the community always willing to help everyone. She is an active member of the United Methodist Church, Team Mom for the Wethersfield Eagles Football "A" Team and volunteered to help the Children of Haiti after the Earthquake.

Karen is battling breast cancer and will be undergoing Chemotherapy and Radiation over the next several months.

In order to assist with her expenses during her treatment we are holding a fundraiser in her honor.

**Saturday, January 15th, 2010  
6:00pm  
Mount Carmel Hall  
30 Olde Roberts Street  
East Hartford, Connecticut**

**Full Buffet Dinner  
Adult Beverages will be Served  
DJ / Dancing  
Silent Auction**

***For tickets or information on how to help please contact  
The Friends of Karen Lewis***

Lori Shields	<a href="mailto:brian_shields@sbcglobal.net">brian_shields@sbcglobal.net</a>	or 860-257-4758
Donna & Mike Lynch	<a href="mailto:BTBOB@comcast.net">BTBOB@comcast.net</a>	or 860-680-6081
Mary DiMatteo	<a href="mailto:marydimatteo@sbcglobal.net">marydimatteo@sbcglobal.net</a>	or 860-529-0841
Lona Barone	<a href="mailto:lonabarone@cox.net">lonabarone@cox.net</a>	or 860-558-2467
Janet Vasel	<a href="mailto:ajavasel@cox.net">ajavasel@cox.net</a>	or 860-721-7090
Connie DiGiacomo	<a href="mailto:cdgiacomo18@gmail.com">cdgiacomo18@gmail.com</a>	or 860-490-4491



*Thank You.*

## Notes of Thanks ...

Thanks to Connie DiGiacomo and Phoebe Ostergren for their help on the Homeroom Parent Committee.

Thank you to Larissa Bashura, Anastasia Capasso, Rosanna D'Onofrio, Kristen Healy, Kirsten Ruck and Kim Fiorino for helping with the Kindergarten Handprint Project.

Thanks to Lauren Barbara, Mary Goldman, Claudia Miller, Martin Malicki, Alicia Schenkel and Angela Tollis for helping with student supervision during the fall parent-teacher conferences.

Thanks to students Alex Ginter, Katie Ginter, Jackie Moquin, Sean Moquin, and John Zadrozny for their help decorating the gift tags for the Holiday Store.

Thanks to Michelle Bosco for coordinating the scrapbooking fundraiser on October 24.

We are grateful to Karen DiCenso for the November Teacher Appreciation. She organized a Thanksgiving luncheon with sandwiches and pies. A wonderful decoration to show the teachers how thankful we are for them was a wall size turkey with feathers representing each teacher.

A great thank you to all the families who sent in food for our Thanksgiving Food Collection for Wethersfield Social Services. We collected more than 10 boxes of non-perishable food items which were delivered right before the big feast. A special thanks to the families who dropped off the boxes: Sydney, Molly and Donelle Bowers, Declan, Kieran and Liz Hallinan, Mia, Ava and Kristen Healy, Andrew and Sheryl McDonough, Evan, Lucas and Gloria Torres as well as to our best helpers Leah and Bethany Ostergren and Katharina and Daniel Cacioli.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bubser have donated five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to Emerson-Williams School. As many of you know, Mr. David Bubser teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Emerson-Williams and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bubser. The Emerson-Williams School community is very appreciative of this most generous donation.

Thanks to Target for providing 50 Target bags to Emerson-Williams School. The teachers will use the bags to store needed items in case of an evacuation.

Thanks to Target for providing a \$700 field trip grant to the third grade. Thanks also to Paul & Jackie LaPerriere for coordinating the grant application process.



## Address Directories - Update and Corrections

By now you should have received your 2010-2011 address directory. If you would like an additional copy to keep at work or in a different part of the house, we have a limited quantity available for \$1 each. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Ginter.

*Please make the following corrections to your directory:*

Monica & Brian Kelly's correct e-mail address is [mdkelly3@att.net](mailto:mdkelly3@att.net) and phone number is **257-1367**.

## Take Note -

The cafeteria will not be serving on lunch on December 23, as the students have holiday parties in their classrooms. Thank you!

## Save Those Holiday Gift Bags!

Don't throw out those holiday gift bags after you unwrap your gifts this year. We will be collecting gently used holiday gift bags for next year's Holiday Store. Look for a donation box in the hallway outside the office. Thanks!

## Don't Throw Out Those Old Stuffed Animals and Sweaters!

The E-W PTO Outreach committee will hold our annual stuffed animal collection together with **Lovable Huggables** in January/February and new this year we will also collect old sweaters with *Nikki, In Stitches* (<http://nikkiinstitches.wordpress.com/2010/09/01/its-time-for-new-back-to-school-clothes/>) in the beginning of the new year. So if you clean out your closets during Winter Vacation make sure to hold on to your stuffed animals and old sweaters! Thank You!

## Student Recognition

Congratulations to Sofie Gustafson, grade 2 and Sarah Seymour, grade 1. Their art work was chosen to represent Emerson-Williams School in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/ Wethersfield Public School Youth Art appreciation Program.

## Room Parent Info

Looking to find out who is the room parent for your child's class and how to contact them? The list of room parents and their contact information can be found on our website, [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com), under General Info/Forms.

## Looking For ...

Mrs. Ciarcia, our school nurse, is seeking donations of track pants or sweat pants of all sizes, especially sizes 10 and up. In this cold and muddy weather, accidents happen on the playground creating the need for spare clothes. Thanks!

## A Note about School Pictures

If you purchased a CD with your fall school pictures from Lifetouch, be sure to check the CD to make sure that it contains the correct child's photo file. If it does not, please contact Michele Livingston to have the problem corrected. Thanks!