



# Tiger Topics

*School Newsletter*

## EMERSON-WILLIAMS

### From the Principal's Desk

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Elizabeth T. Catarius

The winter vocal and instrumental concerts were a huge success. The students in grades Kindergarten through six and the students in band and orchestra performed on December 12 and December 3 respectively. They were joyous occasions, and I would like to thank Ms. Fox, Mr. Griswold and Mr. Stenson for their dedication to our students and to the music program.

Students in grades 3-6 took the CREC math benchmark assessment last week. The purpose of these assessments is to inform instruction. Teachers will analyze individual student performance and the performance of their classes. Teachers find the results to be most informative and use these results to guide their teaching.

Mrs. Doreen Corsair has recruited some sixth graders to apply to the Nutmeg Selection Committee. The Nutmeg Selection Committee promotes the Nutmeg Book Award, and we are fortunate to have the Nutmeg Book nominees as part of our book collection in the media center. In order to be chosen as one of the readers, there is a rigorous application process, and any student chosen will be required to read all ten nominees (books) in order to assist in the choosing of the 2015 nominees. Our school votes every January for the current nominees, and it is with great excitement that we await the announcement of the winner on May 15. Mrs. Corsair is hopeful that a sixth grader from Emerson-Williams will be chosen to assist in this process.

As the winter break approaches, I would like to thank you all for your generosity. Many of you have donated to the various charitable initiatives here at Emerson-Williams. There was a great response to the Mitten Tree and Toys for Tots Drive. Additionally, several students from Wethersfield High School created projects and requested items from the parents and students. These, too, have been successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a holiday time filled with peace.

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# PTO Highlights

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What a great start to another holiday season with the very popular Holiday Store and Vendor Night. The smiles on all those kids faces make all the hard work that goes into these events worth while. Thank you to all the volunteers that help these events be the success that they are. Special thanks to Lauren Barbara, Amber Kiniry, Alicia Schenkel and Kathleen Peacock for their dedication and months of hard work to put these events together.

The next month is a quiet time for PTO events, but there are always plans being worked on. Things like an up coming Comedy Night, Strawberry Festival and Golf Tournament take time to plan and organize. We also are hard at work trying to get the necessary funding we need to make the playscape a reality.

With this lull in PTO events, enjoy your time with your friends and families. Have a safe and Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

That's all for this month!

Sincerely,  
Martin Malicki and John Kiniry



## Save the Date! Comedy Night

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Mark your calendars now! We are holding a comedy night on Friday, May 10, 2013 to benefit the Playscape Fund. Book a babysitter and prepare to laugh so hard your face will hurt. Dave Reilly is a true comedian that works nationwide for the sole purpose of getting laughs. Dave's comic material is a mix of off the cuff improv and real life situational material that everyone can relate to. More details will be out in the coming weeks. Thank you!



## Stop and Shop Rewards Program

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If you haven't done so already, PLEASE register your card to help us earn money for E-W, and ask your friends, family and co-workers to do the same! Go to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to sign up; our school ID is 06644. If you would like a form that you can use to solicit help from co-workers (in your office lunch room, etc.) just contact Andrea Ginter. Thank you!

## Forms, Info, Events, Notices: [ewpto.com](http://ewpto.com)

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Check [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) for links to forms, events, fundraisers, Tiger Topics, lunch menus and the digital backpack (online copies of the school-wide notices that come home with your child each week).

**PTO Meeting Schedule:** January 10 • February 13 • March 14 • April 11 • May 9 • June 13

*No December meeting*

# Community Outreach

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Next month the Emerson-Williams Community Outreach Committee will partner with Lovable Huggables, a two-woman organization that collects and refurbishes gently used stuffed animals. These stuffed animals are distributed to organizations such as convalescent homes, day care centers, clinics, police departments, literacy programs, homeless shelters, churches, schools and social service organizations.

From **Monday, January 7 through Friday, January 11** we are asking families who are able to contribute, to look through their unwanted and gently used stuffed animals and bring them to school for this very special and important collection. For transporting purposes, **we can only accept stuffed animals up to 12" long**. Emerson-Williams School and Lovable Huggables appreciate everyone's generosity. Thank you for helping, so we can help others.



If you are interested in delivering a box of donations to the drop off site in Newington please contact Phoebe Ostergren at 860-571-8748 or email ([postergren@juno.com](mailto:postergren@juno.com)).

## Target Card – Help Us Help Our School

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Did you know that when you sign up for a Target card, it helps you and the school? You can sign up for one right at the store (it only take a minute or two). The card can either be a traditional credit card or you can link it to your debit card! You get **5% of your purchases** as well as other cardmember benefits like **free shipping from Target.com**. In addition, you can **designate Emerson-Williams to receive funds** based on your purchases. It's a win-win!

Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe).



## Saturday Hoops

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The Keane Foundation offers residents of Wethersfield Saturday open gym programs at the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center at the Pitkin Center. The programs are a wonderful way for kids to get exercise on a Saturday ... and it's **FREE!** Visit [Keanefoundation.org](http://Keanefoundation.org) for more details.



Free Saturday Open Gym Program - Drop In Basketball!  
Coaches are available to supervise and help kids with skills.

**10:30am-Noon:** Grades K-3 (parents welcome)  
**12:30-2pm:** Grades 4-6  
**2-3:30pm:** Middle School students.

## E-W Directory Correction

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The email address for Rosemarie Cunningham (son Jonathan in Ms. Emily Shea's class) should be [rosemarieibank@aol.com](mailto:rosemarieibank@aol.com) not [rosemarieibook@aol.com](mailto:rosemarieibook@aol.com).

# Wethersfield Public Library Events

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## School Vacation Programs – December 2012

Wednesday, December 26, 10:30am: FAMILY MAGIC SHOW starring “Mr. Magic”: recommended age 3 & up. “Mr. Magic” will entertain families with his popular interactive magic show. Registration is required and begins December 3-19 for residents and December 20-23 for residents and non-residents.

Wednesday, December 26, 2-4 pm: GET CRAFTY. Drop in to create a craft of your choice.  
Also 2-4 pm: Wii PLAYTIME. Play Wii games with friends and family.  
Recommended age 3 & up. No registration required.

Thursday, December 27, 10am-noon: BUILD IT! Families use their imaginations to create structures using LEGO, DUPLO, Magna-Tiles, wooden blocks and more! No registration required

Thursday, December 27 6:30pm: MAD SCIENCE: 1st grade & up. Exciting experiments and hands-on activities. Registration is required and begins December 3-19 for residents and December 20-23 for residents and non-residents.

Friday, December 28, 2-4pm: GET CRAFTY. Drop in to create a craft of your choice.  
Also 2-4 pm: Wii PLAYTIME. Play Wii games with friends and family.  
Recommended age 3 & up. No registration required.

Saturday December 29, 10:30am: FAMILY DANCE PARTY! Spend the morning with your family dancing, singing and having fun! No registration required.

## Weekly Programs – January 2013

Mondays, January 14, 28 **\*\*NEW\*\*** 6pm: CHESS CLUB : 1st grade & up. Interested in playing chess? This program concentrates on learning the game and includes practice games. Registration is required

Tuesday, January 15, 7pm: MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB : 3rd - 5th graders. Discuss great books with other moms & daughters! Title to be determined. Registration is required.

Tuesday, January 22, 6:30pm: PIZZA & PAGES: 4th - 6th graders. Nutmeg Award Book Discussion Series with a light supper. Title: Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin. Registration is required.

Wednesdays, January 16, 23, 30 **\*\*NEW\*\*** 3:45pm: RECESS ROCKS : 5 years old & up. Music and movement program designed to get kids fit, encourage natural “feel-good” energy, build self-esteem and to nurture fitness and lifelong healthy habits. Registration is required.

Thursdays, January 17, 24, 31, 6:30pm: MAD SCIENCE WITH MISS MELISSA: 1st grade & up. Exciting experiments and hands-on activities. Registration is required.

Please contact the Wethersfield Public Library to register for these events, or to see their full calendar. **PLEASE NOTE:** Wethersfield residents will need to provide their library card as proof of residency.

# Box Tops and Labels: Clip and Earn

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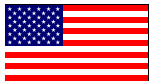
Don't forget to keep Saving those Box Tops!

For every Box Top you Collect, Emerson-Williams earns 10¢. While that may not seem like a lot, it really adds up fast. Also, if you work in an office environment, ask your copy/print services department to save Box Tops for you – many Avery products and even Boise copier paper have Box Tops on them.



Don't forget to keep saving Labels for Education!

These labels can be found on lots of participating products, from Campbell's to Pepperidge Farm to Prego and more! For juice products, save the caps. For other products, look for the bar code or "Labels for Education" logo inside a rectangle. Visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for a complete list of participating products. .



## Thank Our Military: Donate Coupons

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Last week we celebrated the military veterans in our families, our communities and our country.

Looking for a way YOU can thank the men and women currently serving our country – and their families? You can help by donating your unused or expired manufacturer's coupons, which are accepted by military commissaries overseas. The coupons help our military families stationed in other countries, and it doesn't cost you a thing.

Joseph Sottile, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Wethersfield High School is heading up this effort. Last year Joseph sent coupons to military families in Italy, Germany and Japan. He received the Board of Education's CABA award and a Youth in Action award for this project.

Please drop off your coupon circulars or clipped coupons in the labeled box near the main office at Emerson-Williams.

## Emerson-Williams Student Artists

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As part of a Chamber of Commerce program, each month Mrs. Nogueira chooses three pieces of student art to be hung in local business around Wethersfield.

### November

Elizabeth Malicki, Grade 5 - Stillman building  
Jacie Goyette, Grade 1 - Stillman building  
Sienna Garafalo Grade 1 - Stillman building

### December

Jospeh Coleman, Grade 5- Wethersfield Library  
Arianna Metzger, Kindergarten- Peoples Bank  
Angellina Bosco, Grade 1- Library

Congratulations to our students!



# Health Quick Tips

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



## **GOT MILK!!**

From the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, the consumption of milk by Americans has declined, and the consumption of sweetened beverages has increased. A recent study compared beverage patterns of 10,000 adults, teenagers and children from 1999-2002. In all age groups the largest portion of beverage calories came from sugar-sweetened drinks (**soft drinks, fruit drinks and pre-sweetened teas**).

Nutritionists recommend drinking 24oz. of milk a day. On average, teen boys drank only 12 ounces of milk a day, while teen girls averaged less than 1 serving (7 ounces). Adult women (ages 19-49) consumed the least amount of milk - an average of 6 ounces a day, while they drank three times as many sweetened beverages - 18 ounces a day, or 10% of daily calories. This trend could be negatively affecting American's weight.

The study found that preteen girls, teenage girls and adult women whose diets consisted of less milk and more sweetened drinks, had significantly greater Body Mass Indexes (BMI) when compared to those who drank more milk. Also Americans that drank more milk and fewer sweetened drinks had diets that were significantly higher in vital nutrients including calcium, magnesium, potassium and vitamin A. Sweetened beverages contributed to calories and added sugar intake, while providing fewer nutrients. Next time you're thirsty, take an extra minute and think about your drink. (thinkaboutyourdrink.com)



## **REMINDER to all sixth grade students:**

THANKS TO THOSE PARENTS AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE HANDED IN THEIR BLUE FORMS ALREADY!

All students must have a health assessment and required immunizations **during 6th grade**. The blue health assessment form is must be handed in to me before **JUNE 1, 2013**. **Records can be held from the middle school until the assessment is received.** If you need the blue State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment form, I will be happy to send you one.

## **Next year the new immunization requirements are:**

- **2nd Varicella vaccine [chicken pox]**
- **2nd Measles, Mumps and Rubella [MMR]**
- **Adolescent Tdap vaccine [Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis]**
- **Meningitis Vaccine**

# Teaching Your Child How to be a Mathematician

Sarah Johnson and Kathleen St. Onge, Curriculum Specialists

In addition to teaching all the important skills in math, we are working hard to teach students how to be mathematicians.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) have 2 sets of standards for math: content standards and practice standards. The content standards are the “what” we teach, and the practice standards are the “how” we teach. The practice standards are just as important as the concepts and skills we teach in each unit of study.

The same eight practice standards apply to every grade level. We start this work in Kindergarten and help students grow as mathematicians throughout their education. This article will explain some of the practice standards and how you can encourage your child to act as a mathematician!

Students are expected to:

## **“Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.”**

There are many different ways to go about solving a problem. Students face challenging problems every day and they need the ability to persevere. This means that they can try many times to understand and solve a math problem. We want to hear students say, “I will work on problems and not give up!”

## **“Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.”**

Speaking and listening are important life skills. As mathematicians, students need to be able to justify their thinking. In addition to explaining what they did and why, they also need to listen to other students’ strategies to decide if they make sense.

## **“Model with mathematics.”**

For some students, math can seem like a very abstract thing. It is important for students to see math as having meaning in the real world. Students need opportunities to build with objects, draw pictures, use number lines and write number sentences.

## **“Use appropriate tools strategically.”**

All mathematicians use tools and part of being a mathematician is selecting the right tool for the job. This means that students decide which math tools (ruler, ten-frame, or calculator), pictures, drawings, and objects will best help them to solve a problem.

Speaking and listening is a life skill and is the heart of what we are teaching students. On our district progress report we evaluate a student’s ability to stick with challenging problems and justify their thinking. You can help your child by asking them: How did you get your answer? Why did you do that? How do you know you are right?

**WETHERSFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL REGISTRATION  
2012/2013**

**REGISTER ON-LINE:**

[www.wethersfieldlittleleague.org](http://www.wethersfieldlittleleague.org)

**January 1, 2013 - On-line Registration begins**

(3/1/13 - Late registration fees apply)

**Registration Fees:**

<b>Boys (as of 4/30/13)</b>	<b>Ages 6-7-8</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>Ages 9-12</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>Ages 13-15 - \$155.00</b>
<b>Girls (as of 12/31/12)</b>	<b>Ages 6-7-8</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>Ages 9-14</b>	<b>\$110</b>	
<b>\$250 maximum per family</b>					

**\*If you prefer to pay by check or with cash, you must first register on-line, then mail your payment to: 89 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield, CT 06109**

**Make checks payable to: Wethersfield Little League**

(Please indicate your child's name on the check - \$20 charge for all returned checks)

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**\*\*\*Players must be Wethersfield Residents and League Age is the player's age as of:**

**Boy's - 04/30/13      Girl's - 12/31/12**

Are you interested in being a head coach or assistant coach? If so, please complete the Volunteer Application on-line when you register.

**REGISTER ON LINE @ [www.wethersfieldlittleleague.org](http://www.wethersfieldlittleleague.org)**





## H&R BLOCK NONPROFIT REFERRAL PROGRAM

# RAISE MONEY FOR

Emerson Williams

by having H&R Block prepare your taxes.\*

- 1 Take the referral form to a participating H&R Block office and give it to your tax professional. To find the nearest H&R Block office, go to [hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com).
- 2 If you're a new client, your organization will receive \$20.
- 3 Feel good knowing you helped your organization raise money and you received exceptional tax preparation service.

Non-Profit ID — for office use

ENTER NP ID INTO THE TPS CLIENT TRANSACTION SCREEN.



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\*Only approved 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to receive \$20 for each new client referred to a participating U.S. H&R Block office unless that person pays for the preparation of an original personal income tax return or current year Second Look® Review between January 1 and the IRS income tax filing deadline (usually April 15) of the current year. An eligible tax form includes: 1040, 1040-A and 1040-EZ. A new client is a person who did not have his/her taxes prepared by H&R Block the prior year. Referral form must be presented prior to completion of the initial tax interview. Awarded returns do not qualify and H&R Block employees are not eligible. Allow approximately 8 weeks after May 1 for delivery of check. Offer may not be combined with any other referral program, coupon or discount offer. ©2012 H&R Block Services, Inc.

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