

FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Emerson-Williams community,

Happy February! After the chaos of the end of the year and the lull of January this is where we start planning for the rest of the school year! We are talking about the school dance (5/4) and strawberry festival (6/9- tentative), we are thinking about the jog-a-thon and dinner on the lawn. We are planning for teacher appreciation week and we are dreaming of warmer days!

We also start considering the passing of the torch- we have many active PTO members who are moving up to middle school next year and some positions to fill- 1st year president, secretary and treasurer. We are considering expanding the

board to include a few other positions, if you are interested please contact us at ptoboard@ewpto.com.

We are also looking for one or two members to chair the strawberry festival (many sub committees have already been filled but someone to oversee the entire event).

Also, we are proud to share that at our last meeting we voted to buy our EW teachers some wobble chairs!! Each classroom teacher was offered up to 3 wobble chairs to be used to help kids who need to wiggle to do so safely. We continue to look for ways to enhance both our children's classrooms and learning experience, as well as fulfilling our teachers' needs.

**Hello February!
The groundhog
saw his shadow
on 2/2; six
more weeks of
winter in 2018.**

EWPTO parents love volunteering, join us for upcoming events!

February 2018

So please - Come join us!!
Come to check out a meeting to see what we are all about! We are doing amazing things and we would love for you all to be a part of it!

Thank you,
Colleen Mattatall
and Autumn Struk
EWPTO Co-Presidents

Contact the entire EW PTO Board by sending an email to ptoboard@ewpto.com

2018 PTO MEETINGS

7:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays in the EW Upper Media Center

March 8, April 19, May 10, and June 7

EWPTO Event Calendar

February 23

Ticket purchase deadline for Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip 6th grade fundraiser. \$35 per person, adults only, bus trip on March 16.

February 26

Butter Braid® pastry fundraiser orders and payment due. Pick up is on March 23 (time TBD).

February 26 – March 9

Mixed Bag Designs Fundraiser to support students, teachers, and our school. Help us our sales goal of selling at least one item per student.

March 1

Incoming 2018-2019 Kindergarten Orientation for parents at 6:30 p.m. at each Wethersfield Elementary School.

March 3

EW Band and Orchestra will perform during the 1st intermission at the Hartford Wolf Pack vs. Bruins game at 3:00 p.m. at the XL Center in Hartford, but doors open at 2:00 p.m. Advance ticket sales extended until 2/22. Or, you can purchase tickets at the door and be seated outside of the EW section.

March 8

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center

March 16

Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip – Adults Only Fundraiser to support the EW 6th Grade end of year activities. Leave EW at 6:00 p.m. and return to EW at approximately 1:00 a.m.

March 17

Chipotle Fundraiser to support the EW School Dance on May 4. Dine from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on your favorite food at Chipotle, 1084 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield and 50% of the proceeds support our school dance. Bring the flyer, show it on your smart phone, or tell the cashier you're supporting EWPTO.

March 20 and 22

Minimum School Day – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m. for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please note that March 21 is a full day.

March 23

Butter Braid® Fundraiser Pick Up at 2 Sunrise Terrace, Wethersfield (time TBD).

March 29

Mismatch Spirit Day – Wear clothes and crazy socks, that don't match.

March 30

Good Friday – No School

April 6

Career Day for Grades 5 and 6 students

April 9 – 13

Spring Recess – No School

April 19

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center

April 27

Wicked Cool T-Shirt Spirit Day – Wear your wicked cool t-shirt.

May 1

Screen Free Week fundraiser from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Main Street Creamery, 271 Main St, Wethersfield. Come down and enjoy a frozen treat this spring. 20% of all sales will support EWPTO.

May 4

School Dance at EW gym. If you are interested in helping, please contact Christina Carreiro at dance@ewpto.com

May 5

Scoops & Sprinkles EWPTO Fundraiser

May 7

Preferred deadline to register your child as a kindergartner for the 2018-2019 school year. Any child 5 years on or before January 1, 2019 is eligible for Kindergarten for 2018-2019. Go to <http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us>

May 10

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center

May 20

EW at the Yard Goats, 1:35pm Game

Week of May 21

Incoming Kindergarten Story Time - Parents and their registered 2018-2019 kindergarten student will be invited to visit their school. Date/time TBD.

May 25

Minimum School Day – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m. and

Red, White, and Blue Spirit Day - Wear red, white, and blue to school.

May 28

Memorial Day – No School

May 31

Field Day

June 6, 7, and 8

Hip Hop Classes for EW Students

June 7

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center

June 8

Crazy Hair Spirit Day – Design the craziest hair anyone has ever seen to showcase at school.

Hip Hop Family Night – Parents are invited to EW for some hip hopping fun.

June 9

Strawberry Festival (Tentative Date) Chairperson volunteers are needed to oversee all the committees that collectively work to provide an awesome school and community carnival. Email ptboard@ewpto.com if interested.

June 19

TENTATIVE Last Day of School – Does not include future snow day closings.

From the Desk of Ms. Thakur, Principal

One major district-wide goal for the Wethersfield Public School System is to teach our students the true meaning of Civic Responsibility. As a part of this district-wide goal, our Grade Six Emerson-Williams students engaged in a wonderful community service project. We teamed up with hard-working UCONN students and their amazing HUSKY-thon project designed to raise money to support Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). You may have seen media coverage in past years of the UCONN students running all-night dance marathons to help raise money for CCMC. Our student project was a branch of this spectacular work. Our students set a lofty goal of raising \$1,000 by February 1. They far surpassed their goal, and raised \$2,719! A committee of Grade Six students planned and executed several fund-raising efforts to help them achieve their important goal. Their advisors for this project were Mrs. Camie Mollica (Grade Six Parent) and Mrs. Ali Reynolds (Grade 6 teacher). On Tuesday, February 27, our students will make a presentation to the Board of Education about their fundraising efforts. This will be televised on local access TV. I am so proud of our Grade Six students for their hard work to support CCMC!

Emerson-Williams Elementary 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.

Emerson-Williams Music Department – Save the Date!

The Emerson-Williams Band and Orchestra will be performing at the Wolf Pack vs. Bruins game on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the 3:00 p.m. game at the XL Center in Hartford. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Advance ticket sales extended until 2/22. Or, you can purchase tickets at the door and be seated outside of the EW section. \$2 from the sale of each ticket will go directly to the EW Music Department.

Please visit the Music Department websites and Facebook page for more information!

Ms. Caravella's (Band & Orchestra Director) Website:

<https://emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com>

Ms. Fortuna's (General Music & Choral Director) Website:

<http://emersonwilliamschorus.weebly.com>

Friend the Music Department on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EWTigerMusic>



Tiger Topics Health Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



TIPS FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE: HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD HEALTHY AND FLU-FREE

With flu season upon us, it is important that we work together to keep our children healthy. Viruses spread easily among children in schools, and families with school-age children have more infections than others, with an average of one-third of these family members infected each year. By keeping our children flu-free, we benefit the community as a whole. You can help prevent the spread of flu or help your child get better if he/she does get sick by following a few simple steps:

- If possible, you and your child should get a flu shot
- Remind your child to cover his/her nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue immediately
- Have your child wash his/her hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and shared items at least once a day
- Ensure that bathrooms are stocked with soap, hand towels and tissues
- Teach your child not to touch his/her mouth, nose and eyes
- **If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others**

If you are concerned about your child's flu symptoms, call your doctor early. Call your doctor immediately if your child has a chronic disease. Common symptoms of flu include high fever, severe headache, muscle and body aches, exhaustion, and dry cough. Additionally, children often exhibit other flu symptoms that are rare in adults, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some children might benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a physician and can help lessen duration of the virus and reduce the risk of complications, such as pneumonia. To be effective, antiviral medication should be taken within 12-48 hours after flu symptoms begin.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about preventing and treating the flu, please contact the school nurse, Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN at 860-563-9638 opt. 3.

STOMP: The special guest.

By Dylan Murtha, 5th Grade Cub Reporter

Emerson-Williams students in grades 4-6th gathered in the gym, where they were about to Skype with a special guest. It was a friend of Ms. Caravella, a performer from the Broadway show STOMP, Sean Perham!

Sean came to answer the lucky kids' burning questions about the performance known as STOMP. STOMP was created in Britain, and the creators were: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. They had first shown STOMP at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1991.

Sean is new this year to STOMP. He never gave up his dream of being on the show (even though he was rejected 5 times he still wanted to push to his goal!). This was the first question Sean answered during Skype.

If you were wondering how Emerson-Williams got in touch with Sean, then enter Ms. Caravella! Sean and Ms. Caravella had been together in the musical Hairspray and other pit orchestras for many years and kept in touch to this day. When Ms. Caravella heard about STOMP coming to Connecticut, she thought the students at Emerson-Williams could ask questions on Skype with Sean!

The questions asked were questions like, "What did it take to get on Broadway?" "Where did you get your materials?" "Why didn't you give up?" these were the most important questions asked. The answers to these questions were also very important. The answer to the "where did you get the materials?" question is "Home Depot. None of the materials are special" said Sean. The answer to the "What did it take to get on Broadway?" question is "You must go through 3 tryouts, each with a different length of time."

The STOMP Skype conversation has shown kids to never give up, push towards your dreams and to believe in yourself. This wouldn't have been possible without Ms. Caravella and Sean and the cooperation of the 4-6th graders. I went to the STOMP show and it was great!!



D.A.R.E Graduation

By Mickey Thigpen, 5th Grade Cub Reporter

On January 31st 2018 the D.A.R. E graduation took place. Seventy-two 5th graders have learned about the effects of drugs, smoking, how to resist violence, bullying, help networks, and other important strategies to keep us safe.

The 5th graders have been participating in D.A.R.E since 2nd grade. Now they're ready for the world out there. This graduation took place at Webb elementary school's auditorium. The fifth graders wore their D.A.R.E shirts and waited in the Webb cafeteria until they were able to go into the auditorium. When the time struck 6:00, they were all ready to go. The kids walked down in class order from Ms. Charbonneau, Miss Lucas, then Mrs. Woods. Unfortunately, Mrs. Woods was not there for the D.A.R.E graduation because her kids were sick. Instead, Mrs. Woods College student teacher was available so he was present at the graduation.

After all the students took their seats, Officer Bob introduced Ms. Thakur, Mrs. Granato, from the board of education, and the three fifth grade teachers. Ms. Thakur thanked Officer Bob for doing D.A.R.E with the students and how lucky we are to have him at this school. After, Officer Bob explained about the program and thanked Mrs. Granato and all the staff and then he gave out the awards.

First he handed out the D.A.R.E essay rewards. The D.A.R.E essay contest was a contest about D.A.R.E. written by each 5th grader. It can be a story or a model of what you learned about in the program. There was a winner and runner up in each class. The winners were Gissella Vargas, Ava Thompson and Sophia Barbara. The runner ups were Mickey Thigpen, Alyssa Perdikakis, and Jakeup Rozito. These six kids won a reward with a pin and inside the reward is a Subway gift card.

Next they handed out leadership awards and included a subway gift card. The leadership winners were Jonathan Cunningham, Maeve Sullivan, Amish Bhattari, Nicholas Alameny, Anxhelika Deda and Eliza Polmatier. At the end, Officer Bob handed out awards to everyone. Each graduate walked towards Ms. Thakur, Officer Bob, Mrs. Granato and the 5th grade teachers and shook their hands as they walked off stage. Each graduate received a bag that they couldn't open until the graduation was over. In the bag was a pencil, eraser, water bottle, pencil sharpener, and a little Darin plush.

After the D.A.R.E graduation was over, Officer Bob thanked everyone for coming. He put on a slideshow with all the 5th grade classes and then revealed the D.A.R.E box class winner. The D.A.R.E box is a box for kids in each class to put questions in for Officer Bob and he answered those questions. The best D.A.R.E box was.....MS CHARBONNEAU!!! (Go my class!!!)

Thank you for reading the **Tiger Topics** this month, see you next time.



Chipotle Fundraiser to Benefit School Dance

SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Emerson Williams PTO. Come in to the Chipotle at **1084 Silas Deane Highway** in Wethersfield on **Saturday, March 17th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Emerson Williams PTO.



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

**Strawberry
Festival**



**Needs
Volunteers**

Strawberry Festival planning is underway! It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2018. A wonderful carnival-like event that usually happens annually, but may not happen if we are unable to obtain enough volunteers. We are looking for volunteers for the following committees/sub-committees:

1. Chairperson(s) for **Strawberry Festival** – Oversee the strawberry festival event and all sub-committees to keep everyone on track for a great event. This is the most needed volunteer(s), as without someone to oversee the already committed volunteers, this even may still not happen. Volunteers from prior years are available to provide guidance.
2. Chairperson(s) for **Raffle Donations** sub-committee - Ask local businesses for donations of gift cards or products to be raffled at the event.
3. Chairperson(s) for **Cake walk** sub-committee - Organize and oversee the cake walk event, solicit baked goods donations from parents and local bakeries, collect and manage cake walk area during the event.
4. Chairperson(s) for **Games** sub-committee - Decide on event games, assist in setting up games prior to event, soliciting volunteers to monitor games during the event.
5. Chairperson(s) for **Dunk Tank** sub-committee - Recruit teachers and administrators to fill the dunk tank schedule in 30 minute intervals. Stimulate excitement amongst students about dunking a teacher or administrator.

A HUGE HUGE thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered for some of the sub-committees already. Overseeing the Strawberry Festival will be so much easier with your help!!!

1. **Food**: Fran Schwartzhaupt and Autumn Struk
2. **Classroom Basket Donations**: Beth Gilbert and Stephanie Conashevick
3. **Prizes**: Shana Smith
4. **Advance Ticket Sales**: Amy Burlingame
5. **Flyer Creator**: Leslie Williams
6. **Post-Event Raffle Distribution**: Chrissy Pikos
7. **Face Painting**: Monika Shoham and Amy Gallagher-Cuadras



Ticket \$ and Order form due 2~~X~~0!

2/22



Come Watch and Support Emerson-Williams School Day!



Saturday, March 3rd
@ 3pm
XL Center, Hartford
Doors open at 2pm

- Come join Emerson-Williams school for a great performance and fun day of hockey!
- Please fill out the bottom of this flyer and **return it by February 2~~X~~ 2/22**
- Questions? Please contact Ms. Caravella
ecaravella@wethersfield.me
- The band and orchestra will perform during the 1st intermission!!!

Tickets are \$12

\$2 of all ticket proceeds will go to The Emerson Music Department!

Student's Name: _____

Event: **Hartford Wolf Pack vs. Bruins**

Classroom Teacher: _____

of tickets _____ X \$ 12 =Total \$ _____

Email: _____

Payment method CHECK or CASH



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LAURA MATURO
 — REALTOR® —
 C. 860.810.0946 | O. 860.258.6202
 F. 860.258.6232
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MOHEGAN SUN CASINO BUS TRIP

Friday, March 16, 2018

LEAVES EMERSON – WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT AT 6:00 PM AND
RETURNS AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 AM

TICKETS \$35.00 PER PERSON, ADULTS ONLY 21+

INCLUDES \$15 FOOD VOUCHER AND \$20 GAMING VOUCHER

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT 6TH GRADE END OF SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES

LIMITED SEATING IS AVAILABLE/ PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY!

PLEASE BRING CASH/WE WILL HAVE 50/50 RAFFLE

FOOD AND DRINKS ARE ALLOWED ON THE BUS

SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE/APPETIZERS

NO GLASS IS PERMITTED

TO SIGN UP, PLEASE EMAIL: IMATERNOWSKI21@GMAIL.COM

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: EW PTO

MAIL PAYMENT TO:

IZABELA MATERNOWSKI

314 PINE LANE, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

PAYMENT **MUST** BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 23TH