

2010-2011 PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

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.

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Tiger Topics

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

There are always many interesting events that happen at Emerson-Williams, so I have listed several of these events that may be of interest to families.

Brenda McLaughlin, Reading and Language Arts Consultant and Donna Morrison, School Social Worker have run a literature and writing club this year for fourth grade girls called *Brave Girls, Bold Readers and Blossoming Writers*. Ms. McLaughlin and Mrs. Morrison invited Julie Phillips, a published author, to visit and to talk to the girls about how she became an author. Mrs. Phillips donated her book *Wink* to our school library. While she was here, we also had two teachers visit us from China. The teachers were guests of Highcrest School. Interestingly enough, Mrs. Phillips and our guests from China had a great deal in common, as Mrs. Phillips is in the process of having her book published in China.

We have started a monthly "Wear a Word Wednesday". You may have noticed that your child came home with a word affixed to him or her because every child and every adult in the building wore a word on Wednesday, January 26. The purpose was to have fun and promote acquisition of vocabulary. The words were chosen from the content areas. We plan to have "Wear a Word Wednesday" once a month for the remainder of the school year except for the month of February.

The Talent Show on Friday, February 11th was a tremendous success, and I would like to thank Mrs. Quadrato and all of the volunteers. With their help, the Talent Show was an incredible evening for students, their families/guests and Emerson-Williams staff.

In closing this month, I know that I speak for everyone of the Emerson-Williams Community in hoping that spring and outdoor recess are just around the corner.

Save the Date!!!



Mark your calendars NOW! The annual Emerson-Williams Strawberry Fest will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2011. The Strawberry Fest committee has already begun making plans for enhancements to this year's fest, including new activities, "Minute to Win It" themed games, and additional food choices.

How can you help? There are many ways! First off, you can join our planning committee. As the English playwright and poet John Heywood said, "many hands make light work". There are many "jobs" to be done in running this event, and we would appreciate any amount of help you can offer. We will be meeting on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

Also, it's never too early to start thinking about raffle donations. One of the most popular parts of the fest is our raffle, and it would not be possible without the generous donations from our school family and community at large.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact Paula Heinzmann or Andrea Ginter.

PTO Highlights

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” ~ Elizabeth Andrew

That quote is so fitting, especially here at Emerson-Williams. Believe it or not, the vast majority of our volunteers are full-time working parents. How do we do it? Sleep is overrated. But seriously, all it will take is to see the thrilled look on the face of a happy student or an appreciative teacher and you too will be hooked!

We have many activities coming up this spring/summer for you and your family to enjoy— be sure to mark your calendars. Two of those events, the Strawberry Fest and the Golf Outing, will require much planning and many volunteers. We would love your help with these events, contact us to get involved.

Were you one of the 450 people who attended our 5th Annual Talent Show? We were thrilled with the audience turnout, the large number of students who performed and that Mother Nature cooperated! It is wonderful to be able to provide an opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and get out there in front of a large audience of supportive fans.

As we’re sure you are aware, the CT Mastery Tests are just around the corner, starting in early March for grades 3-6. How can you help? Make sure your students get a good night’s sleep and have a healthy breakfast to start their day.

Regards,

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up:

Wednesday, 2/16	Anti-Bullying Presentation at SDMS
Tuesday, 3/1	Golf Committee Meeting
Friday, 3/4	Butter Braid Orders Due
Monday, 3/7	Strawberry Fest Planning Meeting
Thursday, 3/10	PTO Meeting
Wednesday, 3/16	Butter Braid Order Pick-Up
Friday, 3/25	Spring Picture Day
Friday, 3/25	Movie Night
Friday, 4/1	Spirit Day: Mismatch Day
4/11–4/15	TV Turn Off Week
Thursday, 4/14	PTO Meeting
Friday, 4/15	Spirit Day: Earth Day
Saturday, 6/4	Strawberry Fest



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

THE PERFECT GIFT

For ANY OCCASION or JUST BECAUSE...



**Are you a WHS Alumni?
Have a student entering WHS in the fall?
A child that plays Wethersfield Eagles youth sports or
Just want to show your Wethersfield pride...**

**Safe Grad 2011 has created their very own personalized Glass Bead for the
WHS Eagles.**

**This 9.25 sterling silver Murano glass bead will fit on all Pandora type gold, silver or leather bracelets, as well as a chain for wearing on your neck.
The bead is pictured above and will read "WHS EAGLES".**

**The cost of each bead is \$25 and will come in a small
drawstring bag for gift giving**

Don't be left out, order now...

**This limited, unique fundraising opportunity is open to everyone:
Upcoming Students, Current Students, Alumni and Teachers, so don't
delay order your exclusive bead today!**

**Please visit the "Safe Grad" info page on the WHS website for a color photo and more order info.
Contact Gina Bielenda 860-563-5646, Cathy Beers 860-563-2949
Or Lynette Saunders 860-257-8757 with any questions.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail _____
E-mail is required for Delivery date and pick-up info (expected time frame Early March)

Number of Beads: _____ X \$25.00 each Total Amount: _____

Make checks payable to **WHS Safe Grad** and mail along with this form to **Lynette Saunders, 83 Meadow View Dr., Wethersfield, CT 06109**



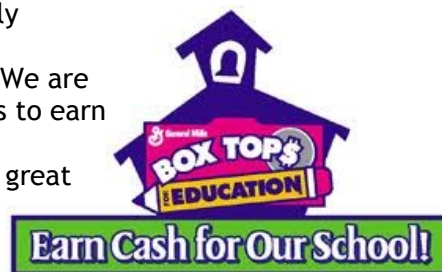
Start saving room in your freezer because the Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser is here! Orders will be taken between Feb. 14 and March 4 and picked up on March 16. Money raised will go into the EW PTO general fund. Thanks for your support!



Box Tops For Education Update

Last month we told you about different ways Emerson can earn money through the Box Tops web site. Well, there is yet another way through the month of February! Please register on the site, if you haven't done so already, and enter in the 1000 free box tops contest. Everyone can enter each day through Feb. 28. You can even have the

box tops site send you a daily reminder e-mail to make it easier! Isn't that the best! We are always looking for easy ways to earn easy money for our school. Good Luck to all and have a great month!



Pasta Dinner Recap

The 6th grade pasta dinner fundraiser was a fun and successful event. However, it could not have been done without the help of many volunteers. A very special thank you goes out to everyone on the 6th grade pasta dinner committee, those that provided food and raffle items, and parents who volunteered the evening of the event: Michael Alessandra, Michele Livingston and Family, Amelia Sollima, Karen Landry, Kathy Nargi, Donna Berry, Janet and John Porriello, Patty and John Arcari, Kathy Coyne, Carla Grasso, Mark Ely, Diana, Kirk and Jacquetta Pettigrew, The Thompson Family, The Gardon Family, the Bhattarai Family, and the Platania Family. In addition, thank you to the numerous families that provided baked goods for the event.

We'd also like to thank Mrs. Catarius for the support she provided to this fundraiser, as well as Mr. Bubser, Mrs. Borges, and Ms. Mahder who took time out of their evening to join us and help in the buffet line. Additionally, we'd like to thank Beth from Chartwell's and Jimmy Discenza for all of their help throughout the night.

A big thank you to our 6th graders who helped with set up and clean up, as well as assisted that evening: Olivia McGrath, Olivia Porriello, Angela Sollima, Marissa Landry, Aleah Livingston, Kit Kerekes, Nicole Arcari, Kate Parker, Isabella Petrella, Allison Nargi, Michael Alessandra Jr., Stephanie Ayers, Anthony Berry, Jasper Pettigrew, Jeana Bruno, Olivia Tyler, Kyle Ely, Naomi Shiff, Caroline Coyne, Monique Gardon, Audrey Coleman and Megan Darrell.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank those in the Emerson-Williams community that graciously donated items to the event: Casa Mia Ristorante, Mozzicato-DePasquale Bakery, First & last Tavern, FreshPoint Produce, Stop & Shop Southington, Stop & Shop Wethersfield, The Flower Box, Degree, Inc., Loomis Chaffee, iParty, European Touch Salon and Fantasia Hair Design.

Everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated and made for a successful event that was enjoyed by all who attended!
 ~ Kim McGrath and Carolee Parker

Wethersfield Parks & Recreation Department

February 2011 Vacation Programs

Pre-Registration required!!! Use this form except as noted. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. For more info call Parks & Recreation at 860-721-2890.

SUPER ATHLETES - SPORT CAMP

Tuesday-Friday, 2/22-25, 9:00A-12:00P, Highcrest School Gym. Grades K-6. Focus on developing flexibility, muscular strength and aerobic endurance through fun, exciting, non-competitive activities with Highcrest teachers Mr. Kobelski and Mr. Silver. Bring a healthy snack, water and lunch. \$75 (nonresident \$95).

LASER TAG - BOWLING & PIZZA

Thursday, 2/24, Fun Squared/Knight Quest, 56 Costello Drive (off the Berlin Turnpike), Newington. Drop off at 10:00A and pick up at 1:00P. \$15 (cash only) includes pizza, soda, bowling and one session of laser tag. Arcade games and other food items are available at an additional charge.

KEANE KIDS FUN DAY - SPONSORED BY THE KEANE FOUNDATION

Wednesday, 2/23, 9/11 Memorial Sports Center. Space is limited. *Call 860-721-2950 to reserve a spot, then bring form and payment to program.* \$1 per child. 9:00-10:00A. Parent & Toddler gym time. 10:30A-12:00P. Ages 5-7 gym activities. 1:00-3:30P. Ages 8-12. Gym activities, computers and smart board games, and snack.

ELEANOR BUCK WOLF NATURE CENTER ADVENTURES IN WINTER

Monday-Friday, 2/21-25, 8:00A-4:30P. Grades K-3 & 4-7. Each day explore a different aspect of the Great Northern Forest: intro to the biome, trees, animals, peoples and conservation. Hands-on learning with art, literacy, animals and play in Mill Woods Park. Members \$30 (nonmembers \$35). *Register online, through the US mail or in person at the Parks & Recreation department.*

FACILITIES HOLIDAY HOURS

All Closed Monday, 2/21.

Fitness Room at 9/11 Memorial Sports Center

Admission: season pass.
Tuesday-Friday, 2/22-2/25,
8:00A-2:00P & 5:00-9:00P

Backman Pool at High School

Admission: child \$1, adult (18+) \$3, or season pass. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible swimmer 18+. Proof of age & residency required. Open following the regular schedule
**An additional rec swim period
Wednesday, 2/23, 1:00-3:45P**

Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center

Members free & Nonmembers suggested donation \$3.
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00A-5:00P
Thursdays, 10:00A-7:00P

Spring Street Pond Ice Skating

Skating is not supervised!
Open weather & ice permitting
Call 860-721-2890 for info.

----- Submit to Wethersfield Parks & Recreation, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109. -----

Participant: _____ Gender h w c Birth date _____ Grade _____
 Parent/Guardian _____ Phone h w c _____
 Address/City/State/Zip _____ Email _____

Please indicate relevant allergies, medical conditions, medications, etc. and any additional emergency contact people on the reverse.

Waiver: I acknowledge there are certain risks in participating in a recreational activity and agree to assume the risk of injury which I and/or my child may encounter. I grant permission to seek emergency medical care on behalf of myself and/or child. I further agree I will not hold employees of the Town of Wethersfield or its agents liable for any injuries which I and/or my child may encounter.

Signature _____ Date _____

Program Selections:

<input type="checkbox"/> Super Athletes \$75/\$95	<input type="checkbox"/> Keane Toddler \$1 <i>pay at door</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Tag \$15 <i>cash only</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Keane Ages 5-7 \$1 <i>pay at door</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Keane Ages 8-12 \$1 <i>pay at door</i>

Payment: Cash Check/Money Order (payable to the Town of Wethersfield) MasterCard (see below) VISA (see below)

Credit Card Payments: I agree to pay the total amount above according to cardholder agreement.

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date ____/____ Signature _____ Date _____



February 2011 School Vacation Week @ the Children's Department Wethersfield Library



Tuesday, February 22 nd , 2011	Wednesday, February 23 rd , 2011	Thursday, February 24 th , 2011	Friday, February 25 th , 2011
10:30 Meet Mary Cashman author of <i><u>Merrilee Mannerly and Her Magnificent Manners!</u></i> (Mary is a former Wethersfield resident!) Ages: 4 & up Storytime, meet & greet opportunity, autographs, refreshments and lots of fun! Please bring camera for pictures with Mary!	10:30 Movie Morning "UP" All Ages: Rated PG	10:30 PLAYTIVITY presents "The Tree in the Wood" Ages: 3-5 years old Join us for creative fun where children "play rhythm games, move and groove to the beat of the drum, and use instruments to help tell the story: <i>The Tree in the Wood.</i> "	11:00 Baby Massage Presented by Lisa Gelberg Licensed Massage Therapist Ages: Birth-12 months Learn the many benefits of massage. Most importantly, massage reinforces the bonding process between parent and infant!
2:00 Crafty Kids Corner 4 years old & up Be Creative! Choose from a variety of crafts!	2:00 Magic Mania Ages: 6 & up Become a magician! Learn simple tricks to amaze your friends and family!	2:00 Crafty Kids Corner 4 years old & up Be Creative! Choose from a variety of crafts!	2:00 Movie Afternoon "Despicable Me" All Ages: Rated PG
6:30 LEGO® Block Party! - 7 years old & up Complete LEGO® building challenges. - 6 years old & under with caregiver Construct a DUPLO® town.	Library Closes at 5:00PM 	6:30 SNUGGLE UP & READ GRAND FINALE All Ages Calling all 2011 Family Winter Reading program participants: celebrate reaching your winter reading goals. Raffle prizes will be awarded.	Library Closes at 5:00PM Wethersfield Library 515 Silas Deane Highway Wethersfield, CT 06109 www.wethersfieldlibrary.org Children's#: (860) 257-2801 Main#: (860) 529-2665 Email: childservices@wethersfieldlibrary.org



Registration is required and begins:
Monday, January 31st: Wethersfield Residents Only
Wednesday, February 16th: Wethersfield Residents & Non-Residents



TV Turn Off Week is Coming!

Each year, Emerson-Williams families participate in the national program known as "TV Turn Off Week". This year, E-W will be observing TV Turn Off Week from April 11-15.

By turning off the television, families are making a statement. They are saying that communication with one another is important. They are saying that time spent together in other activities is important. They are making a decision to not let television media run their lives, but rather to use television as a tool.

TV Turn Off Week can be a first step in awareness of how television viewing can affect children and adults. Participating in the activities can bring positive changes to a family.

We are in the midst of planning family events that you can participate in throughout the week, including Bingo Night, a dinner fundraiser at Chili's in Newington and a Sock Hop. Stay tuned for more details on these fun family events!





Wethersfield Early Readiness Council and the Wethersfield Public Library are co-sponsoring the 4th Annual

EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPO

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

6:30 – 8:00pm

Pitkin Community Center Banquet Room

30 Greenfield Street

Wethersfield, CT

Visit the Expo and speak with representatives from local licensed preschools and daycares; learn about local services and activities for young children. Gather the information you need to make important choices for your children's future. For your enjoyment, The Cat in the Hat will be on hand to greet families!

This event is FREE and open to all families!

For questions, contact:

Marilyn Foley: 860-529-0924; Linda Wood: 860-721-1307

or Miss Regina: 860-257-2801

Email: Preschoolexpo@yahoo.com

WERC is a group of community members, including parents, businesses, schools and others that promote the importance of quality early childhood care and education to prepare all Wethersfield children for success in school and life!

Wethersfield Parks & Recreation Department

KIDS FEBRUARY VACATION GYM DAY

AT THE 9/11 MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTER

Back by popular demand, please join us on **Wednesday, February 23, 2011** for a fun filled day at the 9/11 Memorial Center (at the Pitkin Community Center). Children can visit with old friends and make new friends during February Vacation.



9:00-10:00am 2-4 year olds (Parent and Toddler)
Enjoy parachute play and tunnels to explore, and try Duck Duck Goose, or other fun toddler activities.

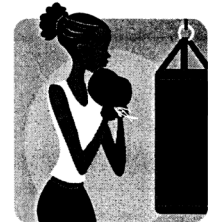
10:30-12:00 5-7 year olds



Parachute play and other organized sports like Kick Ball, Basketball, Freeze Tag and other fun games!

1:00-3:30pm 8 - 12 year olds

Play Basketball, Dodge Ball, Try Boxing and other games in the gym. Also, the Computer Room will be open for Computer fun.



Please **call** 860-721-2950 or visit the Recreation Office at the Community Center to reserve your child's spot.

Donation \$1.00 per child at the door

(Parents **must** also complete permission form and bring to the Gym Day ... extras will be available at the door)



Student Recognition

Congratulations to Kiara Lazu in grade 3 and Jared Guidobono in grade 6. Their art work was chosen to represent Emerson-Williams School in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/ Wethersfield Public School Youth Art appreciation Program.

Sock Hop ...



We will be holding a Sock Hop for E-W families to enjoy on Friday, April 15. If you would like to be part of the planning committee for this fun event, please contact Janet Vasel at ajavasel@cox.net by February 25.



HELP US HELP OUR SCHOOL.

Did you know there's an easy way to help us raise money for our school—for books, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding? It's called Take Charge of Education, and it's helping our school right now.

Here's how it works: Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target[®] Visa[®] Credit Card, Target Credit Card[®] or Target Check Card[®]), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K–12 school of your choice.*

Don't have a REDcard? It's easy to apply. Get started in person at any Target store or go to Target.com/redcard.

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.



A Few Final Notes of Thanks ...

Thanks to Kathleen Peacock for providing a delicious spread of Tastefully Simple treats. The teachers loved them. We would also like to thank all parents for their continued support in showing the teachers how much we appreciate them.

A huge thank you to Michele Quadrato for heading up this year's talent show. Thanks also to Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Tomaro for serving as masters of ceremony and to the teachers who entertained us with their hidden talents. Thanks to the performers, volunteers, and of course, thanks to you for attending!

THANKS!