



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

Greetings Emerson-Williams community and welcome to 2019!

Now that the holidays and new year are behind us, are you back to your routine? I'm sure as heck not. The flu plagued the Pikos household at the end of 2018 and spread its joy into 2019. My couch and I have been best buddies and now I'm having separation anxiety. But enough of my woes, let's get into what's happening...

The kids have some upcoming days off from school. On Monday, January 21, the United States honors Martin Luther King Junior to celebrate his achievements and honor his life. February has Presidents' Day and winter recess which means no school on Friday, February 15; Monday, February 18th; and Tuesday, February 19th.

Coming this February, the PTO has our Talent Showcase on Friday, February 8th with the snow date of Friday, February 22nd. A teacher luncheon is

scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th; keep an eye out on Facebook or our website (ewpto.com) for volunteer opportunities.

Speaking of website, my time at Emerson-Williams will come to an end soon as my child is currently in 5th grade. During the summer, I plan to convert the website into a WordPress platform. If no one steps up to fill the website position, the site will be generic and stagnant; perhaps eventually shut down. So, if you have WordPress experience or want to learn, contact Chrissy at webmaster@ewpto.com.

Since Chrissy failed to bring the proper paperwork to the past few PTO meetings so the small changes to the by-laws were not completed in 2018. Every three years, the by-laws committee is required to review the by-laws and 2019 is one of those years. The by-laws committee is looking for one more volunteer to complete a required

review of the current by-laws. If you're interested in joining the committee, please email the board at ptoboard@ewpto.com. Meeting dates have yet to be determined.

I'll end my blabbing by thanking our volunteers. There are not enough words to say how grateful the PTO is for your dedication, compassion, and generosity for giving yourself, your skills, and your time to our community and to our kids. The PTO is unable to provide such great things to our kids, to teachers and staff, and the school without YOU.

As always, if you have suggestions or questions, please contact the Board at ptoboard@ewpto.com. Happy Winter!

See ya round like a donut,

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

Upcoming Talent Show

The Emerson-Williams Talent Showcase is coming up on **Friday, February 8th!**

Magicians, dancers, singers, drummers, guitarists, and gymnasts will amaze you with their talents on stage! Thank you to Ms. Root, Ms. Kardys, and Ms. Lucas for helping us with our show! This year students will also be taking the lead run-

ning our show backstage! Please come and cheer on our wonderful acts, artists and stage crew! Hope to see you there!

Cultural Night

Emerson-Williams celebrates different cultures within our school in the gymnasium on **Friday, March 8th** from 7pm to 9pm. Contact culture@ewpto.com with questions.

2019 PTO Meetings

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

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

EWPTO Event Calendar

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 7

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

February 8

EW Talent Showcase, Webb Auditorium • 6pm

February 13

Cheer Committee Teacher/Staff Luncheon

February 15

No School - Professional Development

February 18, 19

No School - Winter Recess

February 22

Munson's Chocolates fundraiser

EW Talent Showcase Snow Date at Webb School

March - TBA

Family Activity Night

Box Tops Collection

March 8

Cultural Night, EW gymnasium 7pm -9pm

March 10

Wolf Pack Game • 3pm

March 11

Munson's Chocolates fundraiser ends

March 14

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

March 15

Snow date: Cultural Night
EW gymnasium • 7pm -9pm

Mohegan Sun bus trip • 6pm - 12am
6th grade fundraiser

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

April 29

Spring Picture Day

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



From the Desk of Ms. Thakur, Principal

This school year, our entire Emerson-Williams school community is working on developing the Habits of Mind. In the beginning of the school year, we worked on "Listening with Understanding and Empathy." Your children did a great job with this! Now, for the entire month of January, we are all working on "Managing Impulsivity" as a school community. We would LOVE your support with this at home. Please focus on this same Habit of Mind this month with your children. This very brief article below was taken from: <https://blog.brainbalancecenters.com/2016/02/tips-to-help-your-child-manage-impulsivity>

It contains some great, simple strategies and tips you can use to help your children to manage their impulsivity at home.

Impulsive behavior often occurs in children with ADHD and other behavioral

disorders. Impulsivity is related to acting on a whim or without thought. As a result, these children often do things like take unnecessary risks, blurt things out, don't wait their turn and interrupt conversations. There are methods that can help your child improve self control to minimize impulsivity. The following tips will help overly impulsive children better manage behavior and thereby improve social relationships.

Raise Your Child's Awareness of Impulsiveness

Sometimes just being aware of an issue can diffuse it. Whenever your child acts impulsively, bring her attention to it and help her to better understand why the behavior is a problem in that moment. If your child interrupts you, advise him that you haven't finished your conversation and that it's important that you do so for x reason and ask for patience. When correcting your child's impulsive behavior, it's important to do so in a calm and helpful manner

so as not to affect self esteem negatively. Don't make your child feel like he or she is the problem but rather the behavior is the issue and send the message that it can be corrected. However, keep in mind that in some cases kids won't be able to control their impulsivity just by trying harder—so consult a professional if you continue to have concerns.

Suggest Alternative Behaviors

Provide your child with tools to combat impulsive behavior. For example if your child has a tendency to interrupt, ask him to place his hand on your arm when he has something to say and wait for you to acknowledge him before speaking. If your child is prone to aggressive behavior like hitting or kicking other children, encourage her to take the aggression out in other ways like by biting on a pillow or kicking at a ball or bush. This will satisfy their urge without causing problems or hurting other people.

(continued on page 3)

Cultural Corner

Q & A with Doreen Corsair

1 What is your definition of “culture”?

A tradition or way of life that is indicative to your upbringing, ethnicity, religion, etc.

2 How do you define “family”?

People I love no matter what and people who love me no matter what.

3 How important is education in your family?

It wasn't very important just a few generations ago in my family, but now it is extremely important for a sense of pride and self-worth and, of course, the ability to earn a good living.

4 Is punctuality important to you? Why or why not?

YES! It is a sign of respect.

5 Do you eat foods that are indigenous to your culture? Why or why not? If you answered yes, name some of the foods that you eat. If you answered no, what types of foods do you eat?

My family eats all kinds of food. I love to cook and we all love to eat.

6 Did you ever live with your grandparents or extended family?



My sister and I spent all our girlhood summers with my grandmother in Massachusetts. Best years of my life!

7 Do you/your culture participate in an organized religion?

Not so much now, but when I was young, we would go to a Catholic church that actually said mass in Lithuanian.

8 Define and describe the most important (or most celebrated) holiday of your culture

Pretty much the same as most Christian-Americans: Lent, Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving (and birthdays are a super-big deal).

9 If you are from a culture that speaks English as a second language, do you speak your native language? If not, why? If so, will you teach your native language to any children you have?

My grandmother and great grandmother and my mother and my great aunt spoke fluent Lithuanian but my grandmother wanted my mother and her grandchildren to speak English at all times.

10 What would you say is, from your perspective, the most commonly held misconception about people of your culture?

I was never made aware of any misconceptions. That's a good thing, right?

From the Desk of Ms. Thakur, Principal (cont.)

(continued from page 2)

Take a Deep Breath

Techniques like breath awareness and mindfulness meditation can help improve impulse control. Teach your child to take a few deep breaths when they feel their excitement or impulsivity building. Learning to pause can go a long way towards helping your child to reduce impulsive behaviors. Deep breaths can also help parents reduce their frustration that often arises in reaction to a child's behavior. So in all cases, remember to breathe!

Praise Patience

Acknowledge when your child is being patient and reward him for positive behavior with praise or a special prize. Children who struggle with impulsivity want to behave and may be more likely to do so when they understand what the preferred behavior looks like.

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

Light, Charity, Family and Friends...

The winter months are full of wonderful celebrations and holidays! Christmas, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa, and Diwali are just some of these celebrations. Most of these holidays have common themes: LIGHT, CHARITY, FAMILY and FRIENDS. This year, EW asked students and families to send in examples of how they celebrate and embrace these themes. With these pictures, drawings and stories we created bulletin boards throughout the school. Thank you to those that contributed and Happy New Year to all!



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

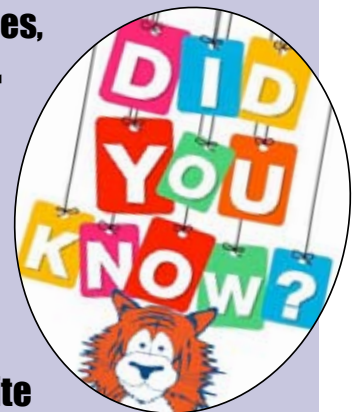
www.ewpto.com/committees.html

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



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**EMERSON-WILLIAMS
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO**

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For more information regarding sponsorship ad placement in Tiger Topics, email tigertopics@ewpto.com.

Take a Journey Around the World at Cultural Night

Grab your passport and let's travel around the world. Explore the different cultures within Emerson-Williams. Get to know your neighbor, friend, and community to see what makes them special and unique.

Emerson-Williams Elementary School Gymnasium
March 8, 2019 • 7pm to 9pm
Snow date March 15th

What the night entails: A family (who has already signed up) will host a table to share photos, traditions, or experiences about their heritage and culture. Samples may include traditional legends, history and culture, storytelling, memories, art, dance, food, maps, traditional dress, flags, or language. A few classrooms plan to participate by performances, displaying posters, and singing. The kids will get their passport stamped from all the different countries represented.

Represented countries:
Albania, Argentina, Colombia,
Czech Republic, Italy, Greece,
Guyana, Mexico, Russia, Peru,
Poland, and Portugal.

We want to bring food, cultural arts, music, storyteller together to learn from one another and learn about the diverse culture of our school community. Contact culture@ewpto.com with questions.

**See what makes
our culture unique**





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:** _____

EMERSON-WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SHINING STARS **TALENT SHOWCASE**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8
6:00PM
WEBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Sponsored by EWPTO



\$2 PER TICKET
EMERSON-WILLIAMS STUDENTS FREE

TICKET ORDERS DUE BY FEB. 1ST

Please submit the below ticket order form to your Teacher by Friday, February 1st.

Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the show!

Student Name: _____

Student Teacher and Grade: _____

of EW Students Attending FREE: _____

Attending @ \$2 per ticket: _____

Enclosed Amount: _____

The 6th grade committee will be selling refreshments at the show!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Looking for a way to show your Tiger Pride? Purchase a magnet for your car or stick it on your fridge!

Magnets are \$5. Supply is limited, once they're gone... they're gone.

Return this form with a check to EW PTO.

If you have questions, please contact tigertopics@ewpto.com

Student Name _____

Teacher & Grade _____

Number of Magnets _____



**Thank you
for volunteering
your time to the
EW PTO.**



CYBER SEMINAR FOR PARENTS



"Parents NEED to improve their Internet safety skills, not due to a lack of trust of their own children, but due to the fact that our children are sharing information about themselves with MILLIONS of people. Not all of those millions are nice and honest people."

Through this presentation, parents will be informed of new trends and techniques that are being used on-line by the predators and by our children. They will also be given tips on what to do to prevent a dangerous situation from happening. Parents will see how what their children do on-line now can have long term negative effects on their future. Parents will learn tools and strategies they can use to keep their families safe.

**Thursday, January 24th
Webb Elementary School
51 Willow Street, Wethersfield
6:30 P.M. – 8 P.M.**

Presented by Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts
<http://internetsafetyconcepts.com/>

This presentation is for adults only. No students please.



Sponsored by Wethersfield Schools Parent Council