

Tiger Topics Newsletter, January 2017

From the Desk of the Emerson-Williams PTO Co-Presidents



Upcoming Events

January 26

E-W Family STEM Night at EW

January 27

Jersey Spirit Day – Wear your favorite team jersey or shirt

February 2 (NEW Date!)

PTO Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center at EW

February 3

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Event and tentative date for Family Fun Bingo Night

February 10

Heart Spirit Day – Wear red for the American Heart Association

February 17 – 21

Professional Development and Winter Recess – No School

February 24

Tentative date for Movie Family Fun Night

February 24 – March 10

Mixed Bag Designs Fundraiser

Emerson-Williams Elementary School

461 Wells Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Main Office (860) 571-8360

Principal: Neela Thakur

Main Office: Mary Lacy and Maria Intino

Dear Emerson-Williams Families,

Happy New Year 2017! Let's reflect on 2016... We hosted loads of family events: Dinner on the Lawn, Movie Night, Holiday Store, Vendor Night, and Gingerbread decorating. We also hosted 4 assemblies for our children: Patrick Dunning of the Signature Project, John Steven Gurney an Author and Illustrator, Brain Games through our annual donation to the Wethersfield Creative Arts Council, and High Touch High Tech (some grades are scheduled in 2017). We hosted numerous Teacher/Staff Appreciation events for Back-to-School and monthly luncheons. We purchased many items for Emerson-Williams: we sponsored all the books for the E-W Book Club, we purchased 10 of each of the 10 Nutmeg Award Nominee books for our school library, and fulfilled many Teacher Wish List items to supplement classrooms. Thank you to all of the many volunteers that helped make all of this happen for our awesome school. Without your hard work we could not have accomplished it all.

We have lots of exciting things happening for the remainder of the school year. Recently, the PTO voted to accept the updated PTO By-laws and to purchase new water fountains. Also, we received the Keane Foundation grant which will cover the cost of the Hip Hop program in June. An E-W Tiger magnet fundraiser is coming soon. The next Teacher/Staff Appreciation event, hosted by the PTO Board, is on February 3. Our Mixed Bag Designs fundraiser begins February 24 and the Butter Braid fundraiser begins March 14. And, a luau themed school dance is scheduled for March 18.

Please note that the next PTO meeting has been changed to February 2 and we will have special guests from the Board of Education (BOE) attending. These BOE members will discuss the potential impact of recent state cuts to education and what it may mean to our school district's budget. The PTO meeting date was changed so that parents/guardians are free to attend a WSPC sponsored cyber seminar on February 9. We hope to see many of you at our next PTO meeting, February 2!

Best Regards,
Darka Jara, 2yrpres@ewpto.com
Colleen Mattatall, 1yrpres@ewpto.com
Co-Presidents, EW PTO

www.ewpto.com, Webmaster: Chrissy Pikos
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Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

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January 2017
Editor: Leslie Williams

From the Principal's Desk

By Ms. Neela Thakur

I wanted to take this opportunity to sincerely thank this Emerson-Williams parent community for all of the support, help, and involvement you give to our students, our teachers, and me. Your continued and consistent involvement in this school community is what makes our school so special and vibrant. Some of you are able to attend our monthly PTO Meetings on a consistent basis. We typically have anywhere between 20 - 25 parents attend these meetings monthly. Each month, we have some new faces join us around the table, which is fantastic. Please come! Even if you have never attended a PTO Meeting before, you are ALWAYS welcome to come. We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions.

Our next PTO Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m. in our Upper Media Center. But, even for those of you who are unable to attend the monthly PTO Meetings, please know that my staff and I are very aware and SO appreciative of all that you do to contribute to our school community. Whether you are volunteering in the classroom, showering our teachers with treats during Staff Appreciation Luncheons, working hard on fundraising efforts, or involved in many other unique ways in our school community, please know how important this is to all of us, including your children. This involvement on your part helps them recognize that you value our school and that school is important to your family. It sends them a very strong message. And, the financial support from our PTO has also been tremendous. Every dollar you contribute via PTO Membership Dues and fundraisers is going right back to your children in so many cool and exciting ways. If you are a parent who really wants to be involved in our school community but you are not sure how, I would strongly encourage you to reach out to your classroom Room Parents, or to a member of our PTO Board, and you will be guided in the right direction. Even if you are unable to attend any PTO Meetings, there is still SO MUCH work to be done, and so many ways you can help. We DO need your help. We can't do this without you. Our partnership is crucial in order for us to maintain the most outstanding school community for your children. Again, from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU for all you do. I truly love this parent community!

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.



EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to:

All of the 3rd Grade Families for their efforts for the January Teacher/Staff Appreciation Event – Sweets Treats & Eats! It was a great turnout and the teachers/staff loved it! The **3rd grade Room Parents** did an awesome job organizing this event. The next Teacher/Staff Appreciation event is on Friday, February 3rd and will be hosted by the E-W PTO Board.

Toni V., an EW sibling, for continuing to volunteering her time to provide childcare at monthly EWPTO meetings. The kids have so much fun with her! They don't want to leave after the meeting!

2017 EW PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00 p.m.
EW Upper Media Center

February 2 (Date Changed)

March 9
April 20
May 11
June 8

Tiger Topics Health Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



6th graders:

Keep getting the physical forms in to me. I will be sending home a reminder slip, please fill out and return ASAP. I still have many students that have not turned in physicals. A delay in the transfer of health records and progress reports may occur if I do not receive the form before June 1st 2017.

Parents: Many children are coming to school without coats, hats, gloves, or proper footwear to go out for recess. The outdoors in winter is enjoyed most when you are dressed properly. It is also SAFER when you are dressed properly. Remember: there is no bad weather, just bad clothing. In winter, the best idea is to stay warm and dry.

Dress in layers

Layers allow you to be more flexible to changing weather conditions and your own activities. Layers create an air space between the skin and the cold and this space is what insulates best. Layers are also looser, allowing for better blood circulation which helps to maintain body temperature.

Three layers:

1. Inner (Base) layer: The skin should be covered in a thin layer that helps to move moisture away from the body. Keeping your skin dry helps keep you warm and comfortable. Your inner layer should cover almost your whole body: arms, legs and torso. Polyester and silk, and related modern materials are best. Cotton is a poor choice.
2. Middle layer: This is the insulating layer. Wool and fleece work best. The middle layer can be made up of several thin layers.
3. Outer layer: This is the water and wind protection layer. Gore-Tex and nylon are best. Get a long coat so that you can sit comfortably. Coats should have high collars and a hood. You should be able to easily ventilate the coat by loosening sleeve ends, opening zippers under the arms and opening a front zipper.

What we have been seeing here at school:

A sweatshirt, no jacket
Ballerina shoes with short socks
Shorts
Thin fleece jacket
Skirts without tights
Slip on shoes without socks

Layering also applies to hands and feet

Wear two pairs of socks - a thin polyester sock against the skin and a thicker sock over that. Boots should be comfortable and not too tight. Tightness will constrict blood flow and make your feet colder. Boots should also have a good sole for grip and stability on slippery or uneven surfaces and should be warm and waterproof.

Scarf and hats

Your head and neck are major sources of heat loss. A hat and a scarf are a must in cold weather. If you are worried about your child wearing a scarf, try a tube scarf. A balaclava or similar cover for the head, ears and face may be best in very cold weather. Sunglasses can protect your eyes from light reflecting off the snow.

Key Points:

Be aware of the current and weather forecast
Leave home dressed properly to go out to recess
Dress in layers



Tiger Snack Tips

As the temperature drops the urge to snack rises. Here are some cold weather snack ideas for active and growing kids.

- whole-grain cereal
- sweet potato chips
- non-buttered popcorn sprinkled lightly with Parmesan cheese
- String cheese
- veggies with honey-mustard dipping sauce
- fruit cut into chunks with a cup of vanilla yogurt
- carrots grated into home-made oatmeal cookies
- Pumpkin or sunflower seeds

Do you have a healthy nut-free snack or recipe you'd like to share with the EW Community? Email it to tigertopics@ewpto.com for publication in our next newsletter.



Tiger Topics – Monthly Spotlight Article

by Emerson-Williams Elementary School and Wethersfield Public Schools

WETHERSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY FAMILY STEM NIGHT



Join us for a fun family math night filled with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities and games!!!

When?
Thursday, January 26, 2017
(Snow date: 2/2/17)
From 6:00-7:30 pm

Where? Emerson Williams Cafeteria, Media Center, and Computer Lab

RSVP Count us in!

Family Name(s): _____ # of adults attending _____
Name of Child: _____ Grade Level of Child: _____
Name of Child: _____ Grade Level of Child: _____
Name of Child: _____ Grade Level of Child: _____
Will you be entering your device in the Egg Challenge? (one per family please) Yes ___ No ___
Directions for Egg Challenge on the next page.
Please return this part to your school by January 20, 2016.

Get the fun started at home!

EGG CHALLENGE: DESIGN AND CREATE AN EGG PROTECTION DEVICE (EPD) THAT ENSURES THE SAFE FALL OF A RAW EGG FROM A HIGH DROP! BRING YOUR MODEL TO STEM NIGHT TO TEST IT AGAINST THE DESIGNS OF OTHERS.

YOUR EPD MUST BE NO LARGER THAN 8x8x8 INCHES AND MUST ALLOW US ACCESS TO PUT IN A RAW EGG & REMOVE THE EGG AFTER THE FALL TO EXAMINE ITS CONDITION. USE ANY MATERIALS YOU WANT, BUT TRY TO MAKE THE SMALLEST DEVICE YOU CAN.

YOU MAY TEST AT HOME. IN FACT, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO! ASSEMBLY & DESIGN MAY ALSO TAKE PLACE DURING STEM NIGHT, BUT TIME IS LIMITED.



THE E-W PTO NEEDS YOUR HELP!



ARE THERE ANY PARENTS/TEACHERS/STAFF INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO PUT ON THIS YEAR'S SHOW? THE EMERSON-WILLIAMS TALENT SHOW CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE IF WE HAVE ONE OR TWO HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE WILLING TO COORDINATE ALL OF THE NUTS AND BOLTS FROM START TO FINISH!

IF SO (OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFO) PLEASE FIND CONTACT

INFO BELOW:

EMAIL: PTOBOARD@EWPTO.COM

CALL COLLEEN: **860-490-8760**

Save The Dates!

Sponsored by EWPTO:

February 3 – EWPTO has tentatively scheduled a Bingo Family Fun Night on Friday, February 3, 2017 at EW. Students will have the chance to play and win a prize. One prize per student. More information coming soon.

February 24 – EWPTO has tentatively scheduled a Movie Family Fun Night on Friday, February 24, 2017 in an auditorium at another district school. More information to come once scheduling is final. Students get ready to vote on movie choices.

March 18 – EWPTO has tentatively scheduled the annual school dance on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at EW. This year our theme is Luau. Join us for this awesome event with a DJ, photo booth, and tons of Luau fun! Students must be accompanied by an adult. More information coming soon.

Sponsored by E-W Music Department:

March 5 - The Emerson Williams band and orchestra will be performing at the Wolfpack game on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. We will be there on "Superhero" day which will be a lot of fun!! The Batmobile will be parked in the Atrium area for pictures and Superhero autographs available before the game starts! Ticket information will be coming soon.

June 6 – E-W Singers from grades 5 and 6 will sing the Star Spangled Banner on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 for the New Britain Bees. Game time is 6:35 p.m. Ticket information will be coming soon.

Reminder: Grades K, 1, and 2 Families!!!

The library reading volunteer schedule has been updated for the remainder of the school year. The schedule is on the EW PTO website at: <http://ewpto.com/mediacenter.html>. Please feel free to go in and sign-up today! If you are unable to access the schedule online, please send an email to Amy Burlingame at amy.burlingame@gmail.com or a hard copy note Attn: Amy Burlingame - Media Center Committee - EWPTO.

PTO Emails

Please add the EW PTO to your contacts list and keep in touch:

2nd Year Co-President – 2yrpres@ewpto.com

1st Year Co-President – 1yrpres@ewpto.com

Treasurer – treasurer@ewpto.com

Secretary – secretary@ewpto.com

Webmaster – webmaster@ewpto.com

Tiger Topics Newsletter – tigertopics@ewpto.com

Do you have a PTO suggestion? – suggestionbox@ewpto.com



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Don't forget to keep clipping those Box Tops for Education. Every Box Top earns \$0.10 for our PTO. Did you know that there is a Box Tops For Education app for your smart phone? Download it today and start earning money for our school by purchasing qualified food items and submitting photos of your receipt right from your smart phone. **Our next Box Tops collection is coming soon this Spring!**

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A simple and automatic way to support EW PTO every time you shop, at no cost to you. They have the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Please consider choosing EW PTO and shop AmazonSmile.

Volunteers Needed



We are looking for one person to help co-chair TV Turnoff Week with another parent. Last year, this week was a huge success, however was a lot of work for just one person.

If you are interested in partnering up with someone, (or would like additional information) – please find contact info below:

Email: PTOBoard@ewpto.com

Call Colleen at: 860-490-8760

Community

Wethersfield Public Library (WPL):

2017 Winter Reading Program – Book Bingo, Now through March 31, 2017

Birth – 6th Graders

Looking for something to do this winter? Join the Winter Reading Program at the WPL. Register to receive your BINGO playing card and stamp (while supplies last). Each time you read a book, stamp the corresponding BINGO square. Complete a BINGO and win a prize! Sign up in person or via phone at (860) 529-book.

Winter 2017 Literacy Classes

Now through February 19, 2017 check out the web site and class options at

<http://www.wethersfieldlibrary.org/children/programs.html>

Wethersfield Parks & Recreation:

The Winter & Spring 2017 PROGRAMS & REGISTRATION guide, including the Keane On Kids After-School Program is available at <http://wethersfieldct.com/filestorage/398/422/Rec-Brochure-Winter-Spring-2017.pdf>. Also, Soccer sign-ups are available at

<http://wethersfieldsoccer.com/app/index/list/?org=WETHERSFIELDSOCCER.COM>

and Little League sign-ups are available at

<http://wethersfieldlittleleague.org/app/index/list/?org=WETHERSFIELDLITTLELEAGUE.ORG>

Helping Our Neighbors

As you may know, on January 15, 2017, a family on Nott Street in the Emerson-Williams school district suffered a terrible loss when their home caught fire while they were on vacation. Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Fighters fought the stubborn fire despite the first floor collapse of the home at their arrival. Thankfully, the family, a husband and wife, 1 year old baby, and 2 dogs are all safe. Although, she does not know this family personally, Mrs. Perrotta, an Emerson-Williams 3rd and 5th grade parent, can only imagine how devastated they are. She knows that our community is amazing, so she has volunteer to collect donations for gift cards for the family. You may contact Mrs. Perrotta via email at woodsidemassage@yahoo.com or drop off gift cards at her business, Woodside Therapeutic Massage, 280 Main St, Wethersfield CT 06109.



People Empowering People



Wethersfield
EARLY CHILDHOOD
COLLABORATIVE
HEALTHY • LEARNERS • CONNECTED

Do you want to learn more about your community? Do you want to advocate for young children & their families? Do you want to meet new people and get involved? READ ON!

In 2017, The Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative will be hosting the:

**UCONN People Empowering People (PEP)
Parent Leadership Training Program**

What is UCONN PEP?

The UCONN People Empowering People (PEP) Program is a parent leadership program. UCONN PEP is designed to build on the unique strengths and life experiences of participants and emphasize the connection between individual and community action. How does UCONN PEP work?

UCONN PEP participants attend ten weekly two-hour sessions focused on values, communication skills, problem solving skills, parenting skills, leadership skills, action planning and community opportunity. Participants then participate in a project to benefit their community.

Who conducts UCONN PEP?

Jeanine Berasi is Community Outreach Coordinator for WECC and a trained UCONN PEP facilitator.

Is there a cost?

There is no cost to participate in this opportunity, it is provided free of charge through funding secured by the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative.

When is the program:

Thursday nights for 10 weeks
January 26, 2017 – March 30, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tri-Town YMCA, 1321 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield
Dinner and childcare will be provided.

How do I sign up?

Contact Kim Bobin, Early Childhood Coordinator, Town of Wethersfield at 860-721-2885
or kimberly.bobin@wethersfieldct.gov TO LEARN MORE about PEP visit www.pep.extension.uconn.edu

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking to create a core group of Wethersfield Parent Leaders. If you know a parent who would be a good match for this program, please contact: Kim Bobin, Early Childhood Coordinator, Town of Wethersfield at 860-721-2885 or kimberly.bobin@wethersfieldct.gov

This program is made possible through the generosity of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Liberty Bank Foundation in partnership with the Town of Wethersfield, Wethersfield Public Schools and the Tri-Town YMCA.