

2010-2011 PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

February 10
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

JANUARY 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

I hope that all of the Emerson-Williams families enjoyed the holidays and winter vacation. We were eager to have the children return. During the first week in January, the fifth graders enjoyed a presentation from Officer Knapp and Officer Keyes and the canine dog Lanie from the Wethersfield Police Department. This presentation was part of the D.A.R.E. curriculum, and Officer Keyes informed the students about Lanie's role as a drug detecting dog. The students learned many interesting facts about how Lanie works and lives. Officer Keyes gave the students great details in regard to how the police car is specially equipped for the dog, how the dog eats and how the dog is considered to be a "passive" canine dog. The students were thrilled to see Lanie in action. The D.A.R.E graduation for grade 5 will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30 P.M. in the Emerson-Williams gym.

The sixth graders held their Science Expo on Friday, January 7th. Each sixth grader developed a hypothesis and then came to a conclusion in regard to their hypothesis. The hypotheses and conclusions were very interesting, and the students did a wonderful job presenting their work. In addition, the other students in the school visited the Science Expo and were able to ask pertinent questions to each presenter.

The Geography Bee was to be held on January 7th, but due to the early dismissal it had to be rescheduled to Friday, January 14th. Students in grades 4-6 participate in the Bee in their classrooms and then the finalists participate in the final Bee. The questions are extremely challenging, but the students are very enthusiastic. The winner of this year's Geography Bee was Ben Milano in grade 6. Congratulations to Ben!

A practice for the Talent Show was held on January 5th. Many students are participating this year, and it appears that another fantastic show is set for February 11th at Wethersfield High School.

Finally, as the winter weather continues, I would ask that your student come to school prepared to go outdoors for recess. A weather chart provided by the *Child Care Weather Watch* is used to determine the safety of the outside conditions, and when possible, we go outside. It is wonderful when we have outdoor recess in order for students to release some energy and to get some much needed fresh air. Being properly attired for the elements will only add to your student's comfort. If you have any questions in regard to outdoor recess, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Ciarcia, the school nurse.

Tiger Topics Is Going Green!

In an effort to help the environment, we will no longer be sending home hard copy versions of Tiger Topics after this issue. Each month, parents will receive an e-mail link to the current issue of Tiger Topics on ewpto.com. In addition, a small notice will go home in backpacks. A limited number of printed copies will be available in the office each month for families who do not have access to a computer.

PTO Highlights

Happy New Year!! After our well-needed holiday break, we are all well-rested and energized to make the second half of the school year very exciting and full of fun!

On Friday, Feb 11th at Wethersfield High School, we will be showcasing an amazing talent show with our very own stars! In order for our show to be a success, we desperately need your help! Michele Qudarato has been kind enough to chair the event, but she can't do it all by herself!! Please contact her at MIQ325@cox.net to see how you can help.

We have so much to look forward to in the next 5 months ahead and it will be wrapped-up with a fun-filled family day at our Strawberry Festival in June. We are in the beginning stages of making all the plans for Strawberry Festival now, so please contact either myself, or Andrea to find out how you can help. It won't happen without YOU!

We continue to thank all the PTO members that have made the first half of our school year such a success and we hope to increase the number of volunteers so that we can offer more family-fun. If the same dedicated members continue to do all the events, we may lose out on new ideas and creativity that you all have hiding somewhere inside you! Even if you think you have something "silly" to offer, we will find a way to make it useful!

Don't worry if you can't make the meetings, just visit our PTO website www.EWPTO.com to see what's going on or send us an email. Andrea and I always appreciate your thoughts and ideas. So don't just say you're going to volunteer this year, make it the one New Year's Resolution you stick to. You have a big support group to help make you achieve it!

Regards,

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up:

Friday, 1/28	Pasta Dinner
Monday, 1/31	Strawberry Fest Meeting
Thursday, 2/10	Talent Show Dress Rehearsal
Friday, 2/11	Talent Show
Monday, 2/14	Spirit Day: Heart Day
4/11-4/15	TV Turn Off Week



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

Wethersfield Parent Presentation on Bullying



*Preschool- Eighth Grade parents are invited to attend a presentation on **Bullying!***

DATE: January 26, 2011 *(rescheduled from 1/12)*

TIME: 6:30-7:30PM

Don't miss this info!

LOCATION: Silas Deane Middle School
Auditorium

TARGET AUDIENCE: Parents of K-8 students

PRESENTERS: Detective Tom Regan and
Officer Dave Gove

Snow Date: January 26, 2011



Bullying Stops Here!

The presentation is hosted by The Wethersfield Public Schools and The Wethersfield Police Department

FOR ALL Parents



Start saving room in your freezer because the Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser is right around the corner. Orders will be taken between Feb, 14 and March 4. Money raised will go into the EW PTO general fund. Thanks for your support.



Box Tops For Education Update

Happy New Year! I hope that in the spirit of New Year's resolutions everyone can find some time to resolve that Emerson-Williams will not lose out on any "free" money we could earn. That being said, please check out the Box Tops web site. There are a ton of ways to help our school through the Box Tops program. We all

know that saving those little .10 cent coupons on the packages of our favorite products really adds up, but did you know there are other ways too! Lots of your favorite stores have online bonus points if you shop online through the Box Tops site. The site is www.boxtops4education.com. Please take a look, register as an Emerson-Williams family and

help us to reach our fundraising goals without spending any extra money. Thanks!



Strawberry Fest Update



Believe it or not, it's time to start planning our annual Strawberry Fest. Have you attended this event in past years and thought to yourself, "this would work so much better if they ..." or "something like (*insert wonderful idea here*) would be perfect for the Strawberry Fest, why don't they do that?" **This is where YOU come in!** We are holding a planning meeting at 7pm on Monday, January 31 in the Upper Media Center. If you are interested in helping with this event, or even if you only want to share ideas for improving the day's events, please consider attending this meeting. Want to help out but can't make the meeting? No problem. You can contact Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com to discuss ways you can help. This fun and important event needs lots of volunteers to make it a success. Thanks!

New Life for Old Sweaters

The E-W PTO Outreach committee will be collecting old sweaters with *Nikki, In Stitches* (<http://nikkiinstitches.wordpress.com/2010/09/01/its-time-for-new-back-to-school-clothes/>) in February. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon. Thank You!





Creative Arts in our Schools



Since 1960, the Wethersfield Creative Arts Council (WCAC) has worked in cooperation with school administrators to bring live artistic performances to the school children of Wethersfield. The Council is comprised of parent volunteers representing each of the elementary schools and the middle school. The WCAC currently serves grades K-8.

We are excited to be celebrating 50 years of programming in the Wethersfield public schools for the 2010/2011 school year!

The Council continues to bring performing arts programming to the schools each year, affording every student the same programming experience at each school. The programming is designed to stimulate an interest in the arts and to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of the arts in all of our students. Programs are presented during school hours, with the cooperation and support of teachers and administrators.

Grades K-8 enjoyed a performance called “**Sticks and Stones with Lyle Cogan**” in September, and will also have a visit from “**Opera Works**” this spring. The middle school will enjoy a performance from “**The Signature Project**” in May, as well as one additional program that is currently being scheduled.

The Council is entirely self-funded, relying on donations to fund each year’s programming. Council members raise funds through an annual winter/spring fund drive, and the Council is also supported through funding from the PTO’s of the elementary schools and the middle school PAC. The Council has also benefited from grant funding from Target Corporation and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

To read more about this organization, and to learn how to get involved, log on to the district website at: www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us and click on the “district” tab.

More information will be coming out in early March when our late winter fund drive begins. Look for the flyer in your child’s backpack at that time.



Please join us for our 6TH GRADE PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER

Friday, January 28th, 5:30-7:30 pm (Snow date 2/4/11)

Treat yourself to a night off from cooking and join us at Emerson-Williams cafeteria for a delicious Italian meal, music and raffles the entire family will enjoy.

- Menu: Pasta with sauce or butter
- Red sauce and meatballs from *Casa Mia Italian Pizzeria & Restaurant*
- Bread and rolls from *Mozzicato DePasquale Bakery* and *First & Last Tavern*
- Fresh tossed salad from *First & Last Tavern*
- Beverages and an assortment of homemade desserts

Help support the 6th graders at Emerson-Williams. Proceeds from the event will help to offset the costs of providing our 6th graders with a memorable last year at Emerson-Williams. Please note that students must be accompanied by an adult.

Please return the bottom portion of this form and a check made payable to EW PTO in an envelope marked "Pasta Dinner" no later than January 25th. No tickets are needed - Your name will be put on a list to be checked off at the door the night of the event. Any questions – contact Kim McGrath at 860-571-9373 or Carolee Parker at 860-563-2122.

The _____ Family will attend.

Adults _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Children _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____ OR Maximum cost per family is \$20.00 (Immediate family only)

Total enclosed = \$ _____

Students Name: (if multiple, list oldest) _____ Teacher: _____

Please consider bringing a dessert to share the night of the event. Item bringing: _____

Please consider donating a raffle basket or gift card to the event. Item donating: _____

Student Recognition

Congratulations to Alex Ginter in grade 2 and Nora Serrano 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.

In Search of Gift Bags

Don't throw out those holiday gift bags after you unwrap your gifts this year. We will be collecting gently used holiday gift bags for next year's Holiday Store. Look for a donation box in the hallway outside the office. Thanks!

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 ...

Thank you so much to everybody who donated his or her stuffed animals during our collection in January. It was for a great cause and Mrs. Clark from "Lovable, Huggable" will certainly put your best friends to good use. Thank you to our volunteers Donelle Bowers, Kristen Healy and Cindy Augustine who made sure delivery was taken care of.

Thanks to Kim McGrath and Carolee Parker for warming up our great teachers during the first real cold spell of this winter season. The teachers really enjoyed the soup and bread that was provided.

THANKS!