

# Wishing you a safe and memorable summer 2018!

**JUNE 2018** 

#### FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Emerson-Williams Community,

IT'S JUNE!!! Summer buzz is in the air - we're ready for warmth and sun, pools and the beach, vacations and family time! We've had so many accomplishments over this school year that everyone should be proud of as you each were a part of the monumental success by helping to raise funds, attending the event(s), volunteering at the event(s) and/or talking about the event(s). Our community could not do all of the things we do for our children if it wasn't for the help and support from each and every one of you – so THANK YOU! Thank you for anything that you do to help our children and our school; you are so very much appreciated!

Our June PTO meeting was held on Thursday June 7th. We had the Director and Owner of "Tutoring You to Excellence" come to our meeting and present some ideas on how to "Take Stress out of the Home this summer." The ideas that Diana Lamenzo brought were easy, cheap and are sure to help relieve some of the stress! (Check out our PTO FB page for some of the items she presented)...

At this meeting, we said "Farewell" to:

- Our current PTO 2<sup>nd</sup> Year President, Colleen Mattatall.
- Our Treasurer for the last 2 years, Peping Dee.
- And our Secretary for the last 3 years, James Langdo.

These last years with each of them on our PTO board was amazing and they all deserve to know how much their time spent volunteering for our children and community is appreciated. They helped to organize and create sustainable workflows for ease of transition of any projects, positions, committees, events, etc. Each of them was essential to our success as a PTO and we are very grateful for each of them!

We also said "Welcome" to our new PTO board effective July 1<sup>st</sup> – our board members for the 2018/2019 school year are:

- Autumn Struk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Co-President
- Chrissy Pikos, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President
- Amy Burlingame, Treasurer
- Fran Schwartzhaupt, Secretary We are so excited for this upcoming school year! The Color Run, Spirit Wear, Book Fair and MUCH, MUCH more is already being planned and one of the main goals for this year as a PTO is to ensure we outreach to ALL of our Community to let everyone know how important and essential each of you. Our Children is what we are doing everything for and we have to always keep that in the forefront of our minds!

Strawberry Festival was held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and was a HUGE, PHENOMINAL success. The weather was perfect and the Strawberry Fest Chairs, Colleen Mattatall and Rhonda Dellaripa, along with their numerous volunteers, helped to keep the tradition going strong with some returning favorites, as well as some new changes that rocked this year! Laughter, giggles and smiles were seen on all of the kids' faces and so many people showed up to have a fun day in the sun. Thank you to everyone that dedicated some time to this event – it's always a community favorite!

The Jog-a-Thon this year is being held on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and is being put on by Heidi Dreger and a couple other instrumental parents of our school to help benefit a very important member in our school community with her medical expenses after being treated for Breast Cancer. Donations have been collected through Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and the love and support seen through each donation is felt by those donating, those collecting and most importantly from the teacher who will receive the donations! She is very much informed and is SO appreciative of all of the support each of you is providing to her in this trying time. We ALL thank you for your help in making this a success!

Lastly, a Community
Outreach collection has been sent
out to help TWO EW Families in
need. We completely understand
that there is so much "asking" this
last month of school – but if you are
able to send in any small amount in
the form of a gift card or even a card

# President's Letter Continued

with motivational sayings or letting the families know that you are thinking of them is enough. Our hope through these outreaches is just to let the community members know that they aren't alone, that we are thinking of them and maybe just to help put a smile on their face for a moment of the day!

I wish you a wonderful summer full of memory making. I hope you all are able to get some rest and relaxation and come back ready for a GREAT new school year on August 30th! We are always looking for new members of the PTO, new innovative ideas that can involve the entire community, volunteers and positive outlooks for growth and success of our school. You can ALWAYS reach out to

ptoboard@ewpto.com or message us from our Facebook page, with any questions, comments, concerns and we will be sure to get back to you quickly!

With Love and Respect, Autumn Struk, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President

# EWPTO Event Calendar

#### June 21

Sixth Grade Step-Up Ceremony – 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium

#### June 22

Last Day of School

#### And

Minimum School Day – 12:55 pm Dismissal

#### August 28

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Incoming Kindergarten New Teacher Meet & Greet with ride on a school bus.

and

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Incoming Grades 1 through 6 New Teacher Meet & Greet

#### August 30

First Day of School

## September 8

Emerson-Williams' 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Color Run

## September 12

Open House for Grades K through

## September 13

Open House for Grades 4 through 6

#### September 20

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

## September 25

Vineyard Vines Fundraiser 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Westfarms Mall

# 2019 PTO MEETINGS

7:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays in the EW Upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams

TENTATIVE DATES:
September 6, October 11,
November 8, December 13,
January 10, February 21,
March 14, April 18, May 9,
June 13

# **Emerson-Williams Music Department**

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

Ms. Caravella's (Band & Orchestra Director) Website: <a href="https://emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com">https://emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com</a>

Ms. Fortuna's (General Music & Choral Director) Website: http://emersonwilliamschorus.weebly.com

Friend the Music Department on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EWTigerMusic">https://www.facebook.com/EWTigerMusic</a>

# **Tiger Topics Health Tips**

By Linda Ciarcia, RN, BSN



Hi incoming 6th graders. Recently a letter was sent home with your child about required 11-year physicals for next year. Please start to plan your appointments now. If your child has had their 11-year physical already, you may hand them in to me.

Parents please check to see if you may have any "EW" clothes in your house. If so return them at your earliest convenience. Also, if any of your kids have medication at school you must pick it up by the last day. I cannot send medication home with children. Please call me if there are any planning issues.

Summer is here and the pools are open. Please review some of these safety tips. Have a safe and healthy summer!









# **Help Prevent Drownings!**

#### Here's how:

#### **Practice Supervision**

 Never take your eyes off children in the water not for a minute! Always designate a "pool watcher."

#### **Install Barriers**

 CPSC strongly recommends that all residential pools have a 4-foot barrier, such as a fence with self-closing and self-latching gates. If the house is the fourth side of a barrier, secure doors with alarms that prevent children from wandering into the pool area.

#### **Avoid Entrapments**

- Suction from a pool or spa's drain can be so powerful it can trap an adult underwater. Do not use a pool or spa if there are broken or missing drain covers.
- Ask your pool operator if your pool or spa's drains are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act.

#### **Know Life-Saving Skills**

- · Teach your children how to swim
- Know CPR so you can help save a life if a water emergency happens
- Understand the basics of life-saving so you can assist in an emergency

Each year, thousands of American families experience drownings and non-fatal submersions, and entrapments. Pool Safely!

# **Are Your Kids Out of Sight?**

Your greatest water safety assurance comes from adopting and practicing as many safety steps as possible. Adding an extra safety step around the water can make all the difference. You can never know which safety measure will save a life – until it does.

The CPSC estimates that each year nearly 300 children younger than five drown in swimming pools and spas and more than 3,200 children that age go to hospital emergency rooms due to submersion injuries in pools and spas.

- · Learn how to swim
- · Know basic water safety skills, such as CPR
- · Install fences and other barriers
- · Use pool alarms and covers

Entrapment caused by powerful suction from a pool or spa's drain can trap a child or adult. Do not use a pool or spa if there are broken or missing drain covers.

Report drain entrapments in pools and spas: Call CPSC's Hotline at:

(800) 638-2772 Email: info@cpsc.gov

For more information and resources for pool and spa safety and the Pool and Spa Safety Act, visit:

www.PoolSafely.gov

Follow us on Twitter @poolsafely

CPSC Pub. 360







The Pool and Spa Safety Act















## **Avoid Drain Entrapments!**

**Hair entanglement:** hair can get caught in a faulty drain cover

**Limbs:** arms, legs and fingers can become lodged in a suction opening

**Body:** any body part that can cover a drain can be held down by suction

**Evisceration:** sitting on a faulty drain can cause injuries or disembowelment

**Mechanical:** jewelry or bathing suits can become entangled in a faulty drain cover

#### **Make Sure Your Children:**

- Do not play or swim near drains or suction outlets, especially in spas and shallow pools.
- Never enter a pool or spa that has a loose, broken or missing drain cover.

If you see a broken or loose drain cover, immediately notify a lifeguard and the pool/spa manager.

A pool or spa with a broken, loose or missing drain cover should be closed immediately until repairs are made by a licensed professional.

Children's public wading pools, other pools designed specifically for young children, and in-ground spas that have flat drain grates and single main drain systems pose the greatest risk of entrapment.

# The Pool and Spa Safety Act

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (P&SSAct) was enacted to prevent the tragic and hidden hazard of drain entrapments and eviscerations in pools and spas.



#### Virginia Graeme Baker

In June 2002, seven-year-old Virginia Graeme Baker died after becoming stuck on a hot tub drain due to a powerful suction force. The drain's suction was so powerful that it took

two adult males to pull her from the drain. Graeme was a member of a community swim and dive team and had been swimming unassisted since she was three years old. After being found underwater by her twin sister, Graeme's mother, Nancy Baker, tried unsuccessfully to pull Graeme off the drain. Mrs. Baker said Graeme appeared to be attached to the bottom of the spa as if she were tied or held down. The men who eventually freed Graeme from the spa pulled so hard that the drain cover broke from the force. Graeme died from drowning but the real cause of her death was suction entrapment due to a faulty drain cover.

As of December 19, 2008, all operating public pools and spas must have drain covers that meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8–2007 standard on every drain/grate. If a pool has a single main drain (other than an unblockable drain), or multiple drains less than 3 feet apart, the operator must either disable the drain(s) or install a second anti-entrapment device or system. This can take the form of an automatic pump shut-off system, gravity drainage system, Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) or suction-limiting vent system.





New drain covers come in a variety of sizes and shapes. For a list of cover manufacturers see www.PoolSafely.gov.

# Working with Professional Engineers and Design Professionals

CPSC staff recommends contacting state or local officials to determine who is qualified in your area. Experts should be formally licensed or certified as a business and carry some level of insurance or similar protection.

Pool and spa owners should have their facilities inspected by a licensed professional engineer and install P&SSAct compliant covers. See www.PoolSafely.gov for a list of manufacturers of certified covers and other devices.



<u>Congratulations to all of the Emerson-Williams Elementary School 6th Graders that are stepping up to Silas Deane</u> <u>Middle School on June 21, 2018.</u> Here are 5 tips from a Middle School Student:

- 1. Make plans to sit with friends at lunch before lunch period begins. Lunch is a great time to chat with your friends.
- 2. Be sure to try new things. Sign up for new clubs and sports with your friends. It helps if they are there to try them with you.
- 3. Know your locker combination and keep it organized. Believe it or not, not knowing your combination can wreck your day. Organization helps you keep track of completed assignments.
- 4. Do your homework and keep assignments organized. Make sure you know when assignments are due, when tests are coming up, and study at the appropriate times.
- 5. Stay organized and be on time to class. Make sure you know your schedule and have everything you need with you when you go to class.



# New for the 2018 – 2019 School Year!!

Due to additional funding from the Richard M. Keane Foundation, <u>ALL</u> Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Programs will be no more than \$10 per week! This means that programs currently offered like Mad Science will be \$60 – down from about \$90!! The goal of this supplemental funding is to increase enrollments by making more programs affordable to more families. The expectation is that more students will register for these, now more affordable programs and some may also register for another program that they couldn't afford before.

# Fall Registration

The brochure is out in Rare Reminder on 8/13/18. Registration opens on 8/29/18!

# **Parks and Recreation Family Profiles**

During the many cancelations during the winter, we noticed that many family profiles in the Parks and Recreation system are not correct. We had phone numbers that didn't work, full voicemail boxes, not current Emergency Contacts. This information is extremely important to us. Not only when we are cancelling programs but during a program. If you need to be reached because of any issue with your child, we need accurate information! The schools contact information is not available to us! Many of the profiles were set up so long ago and information can change so they should be reviewed as soon as possible.

## To review/edit:

- Go to <a href="http://wethersfieldct.gov/recreation">http://wethersfieldct.gov/recreation</a>
- Click Register Online
- Enter User Name and Password
- Choose My Account from the menu at the top
- Choose Household & Member
- Review your account and make any changes necessary
- Click Save

As always, any comments and/or suggestions are always welcome! Contact Caroline Fazzina at <a href="mailto:kfafterschoolenrichment@gmail.com">kfafterschoolenrichment@gmail.com</a>

# **Shark Week**

By Mickey Thigpen, 5th Grade Cub Reporter

First question. What is Shark Week? Shark Week is when the other fifth-grade kids decide not to go to Camp Woodstock/Discovery and stay at school. That doesn't mean that the remaining kids do school work. They do fun activities. The kids have Team Time every afternoon. I stayed to do Shark Week because I didn't want to go away to camp. So, I did Shark week and oh man, in my opinion, the kids who went to camp missed out.

One fun thing I liked during Shark Week is my best friends were in the same class as me and we got to pick our seats. Another thing, during our morning meeting, we played catch, which may sound boring but then more balls came in. We had to throw to one person and catch from another person. The balls were different, they were different sizes they felt different that's what made it hard.

We would, for two days, grab paper balls from a bucket and for fun start throwing them at each other. Since it was paper nobody got hurt. We also made name tags for ourselves and made them shark themed. One of the coolest projects we did was make shark ABC books in Google slides. Every letter would have to do something with a shark. Then our teacher printed it out as a book.

Our specials were still the same except for the other kids that came from different classrooms. One thing I liked is how in art class, we got to choose what we wanted to do. In music, we got ahead of the other classes and now we get to be the teachers for everyone else.

What Team Time means is it's the fifth-grade language of saying extra recess/fun activity. Shark week this year was only 3 days long not a week. The games we did on the first day were inside. We played a cool game called zap. Zap is a game where you have to focus and be quick. You would get into a circle and someone would say zap and put their hand out sideways as if they were shooting a laser. Whoever they say zap to must duck as if they were ducking under the laser. Then, the two people left and right from the person ducking have to say zap first as if they were going to turn around and shoot a laser to hit the other person. You can't mistake zap or you're out.

We also played a game called Alibi. The detective would go outside into the hallway and when they're outside someone would have to be the criminal. When the person who went outside or the detective comes back inside, he or she would say what the case is. Then, everyone would have to tell the detective a fake response about what they were doing. But when the detective asks everyone to tell him/her what they were doing, the criminal must say something different and try not to get caught. The detective gets three tries to find out who is the criminal. We also played games like Moonball, Alaskan Kickball, and other fun games like link tag.

We watched a movie called Finding Dory. I don't want to spoil anything about this movie, but it's a sequel to Finding Nemo.

I liked Shark week the most when we made comic strips. Since I love to draw funny pictures, this was the perfect opportunity to do what I like. We also made shark portraits. Some are/were hanging on the wall next to Ms. Charbonneau's classroom.

Shark week was great. I liked it a lot when my friends were in the same class with me. My friends got so used to staying in Ms. Charbonneau's classroom that sometimes, in the morning, they still accidentally line up at Ms. Charbonneau's door. I would love to do this again. If I were you, I would stay at school and do Shark week.

# **Camp Woodstock**

By Dylan Murtha, 5th Grade Cub Reporter

On June 4, 2018, some Emerson Williams 5th grade students were getting ready for their 3-day trip to Camp Woodstock!

Once the students had arrived at camp, they were separated into groups with a counselor, each with different activities. Every group had a mix of kids from the two schools attending, so campers can make new friends and learn each other's differences.

After the sun started to set, campers would be directed to their cabins, with a counselor to watch over everyone. Everyone (including the counselors) slept in bunk beds for 2 nights of the trip. Some kids aren't enthusiastic about leaving their families and felt a little homesick, but camp had things to take people's minds off the homesickness so kids would get over it.

After their rest, campers would look out the balcony and see the sun reflecting waters of black pond. After admiring the view, campers would head down to the dining barn to enjoy a healthy meal with a side of blue lemonade. Then, we would dance like nobody's watching, except everyone was watching!

After the meal, we would go to do some activities with our counselor. There were crafts, campfires, field day, and one favorite - the rock tower. The rock tower was a challenge where people would go up a huge wall and ring a bell to signal their accomplishment.

Then campers would head home to their families with knowledge about how to accept people's differences. Campers learned much about how to be kind to others in the past 3 days. They will use their knowledge from this experience for the rest of their lives.



# SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, 9/25/2018 at Westfarms Mall

EWPTO receives 10% of sales

during 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. More details soon.

Come and shop your favorite fashions and more from Vineyard Vines.

# MARKYOUR CALENDAR!!

EW'S 2ND ANNUAL COLOR RUN-CATUR DAY

SEPTEMBER 8TH

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!
REACH OUT TO AUTUMN STRUK:
860-209-4344
AUTUMN.STRUK@GMAIL.COM

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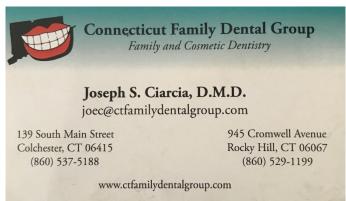


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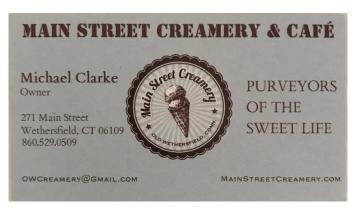
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# Help Raise Funds With The Trinity Solar Stewardship Program

EWPTO has partnered with Trinity Solar - a highly reputable, family owned company that helps homeowners take control of their electric bills by switching to solar. Trinity has grown into the largest privately held residential solar company in the nation. Through **Trinity Solar's Stewardship Program**, we're raising money for a range of things at Emerson-Williams in 2018 - including the Courtyard Renovation and additional items for the classrooms!

The courtyard is the outdoor area enclosed behind the EW gym, media center, classrooms, and a hallway; it is in the center of the school. Long ago, the courtyard had been made beautiful by a wonderful Girl Scout Troop, but time and weather has changed it and EWPTO would like to help make it beautiful again. With your help, we can make it a place where all teachers, staff, and students can enjoy it throughout every school year and maintain it.

Trinity's Stewardship program is the best way to raise money for EWPTO- all of our members can contribute. Trinity Solar will donate \$100 to EWPTO with every qualified appointment\* that is created through this program.

Raise \$1,000 for EWPTO any time you or a fellow PTO member goes solar with Trinity.

Not a homeowner? No worries! Become an Ambassador to earn \$500 for EWPTO and \$500 for yourself when someone referred outside of EWPTO goes solar with Trinity.

For any questions, please feel free to reach out to Monika Shoham at 860-992-2959 or monikashoham@gmail.com.

\*Full details and to see if you qualify, go to <a href="https://www.trinity-solar.com/ewe">www.trinity-solar.com/ewe</a>

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH DONATIONS NEEDED

HELPING TWO EW FAMILIES IN NEED OF SUPPORT.

DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO SCHOOL, ATTN: COMMUNITY OUTREACH, BY 6/18/18.

> GROCERY STORE GIFT CARDS

RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS

> OTHER GIFT CARDS OR CASH DONATIONS

WILLINGNESS TO
HELP EW FAMILIES
DURING DIFFICULT
TIMES

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