

2010-2011 PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MARCH 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

I would like to thank all of the parents who donated juice and granola bars to the students in grades 3-6 during the Connecticut Mastery Tests. The Connecticut Mastery Tests continue until Monday, March 21st. We do have another five days to make up any tests before they are sent off to be scored.

Congratulations to Ben Milano in grade 6, as he has been chosen to compete in the Connecticut Geography Bee. Ben was one of 100 students who made it to this level of competition. This is an outstanding accomplishment!

Kindergarten Orientation took place on Wednesday evening, March 9th. We welcomed 28 families to the orientation. PTO Co-Presidents Paula Heinzmann and Andrea Ginter presented information in regard to the PTO, and Emerson-Williams' staff presented information about the

process of registering and the Kindergarten curriculum.

Our next Wear-A- Word Wednesday is on March 23rd. As you may recall, this initiative in which all staff and students "wear a word" promotes acquisition of vocabulary. By-products of this initiative are increased social interaction among peers and between peers and staff. It is also a lot of fun. You may want to ask your child what new words he or she has learned on that day and what word your child wore.

Finally, Progress Reports went home on Friday, March 18th. Conferences will be held on the Early Dismissal Days of March 22nd and March 23rd.

Lastly, spring has arrived at Emerson-Williams and we are enjoying outdoor recess after a very long winter.

Date Change!



After surveying E-W families and assessing community events, we have decided to change the date of the Strawberry Festival. The annual Emerson-Williams Strawberry Fest will now take place on Saturday, June 11, 2011.

Our next planning committee meeting will take place in the media center on Monday, April 4 at 7pm (don't worry, we will be done before the NCAA Championship game starts). It's not too late to join in the fun!

Be sure to have your students encourage their teachers to sign up for a shift in the dunk tank. Also, you can start collecting raffle items (see the article on page 10 for details about classroom baskets). And most importantly, when you receive a phone call or e-mail from your room parent asking you to donate 30 minutes of your time on June 11, PLEASE SAY YES!

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

PTO Highlights

Does anyone know what time it is? It's time for so many exciting events! Spring is here!! Which means there are only a few months left of school, and we have a lot of FUN opportunities to fit into such a short amount of time.

Our golf tournament committee is in full swing (no pun intended, ok, maybe it was!). So come to one of the meetings *beFORE* (get it? "Fore") you miss out on all the fun. We need all the ideas we can get, and of "*course*" (like "golf course" LOL) the volunteers who can "*follow through*" with those ideas! We have Strawberry Festival meetings the first Monday of every month at Emerson-Williams in the Upper Media Center at 7 p.m. Please join us for some extra brainstorming. We are trying to modernize the Strawberry Festival, but we need your help! We've heard from a lot of you that you are interested and want to be part of it, but that night doesn't work for you...please make sure you contact Andrea Ginter or Paula

Heinzmann if that is the case. We will provide you with a copy of the agenda and the minutes so you can still stay informed and give us your thoughts and ideas.

Some other upcoming events to look forward to this Spring are Movie Night and TV Turn-off week. Stay tuned for more details to come! In the meantime, take a minute to browse the EW PTO web site (www.ewpto.com) and get your up-to-date info when it's most convenient for you. Hope to see you very soon at one of our meetings!

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, 3/25	Spring Picture Day
Friday, 4/1	Spirit Day: Mismatch Day
Friday, 4/1	Movie Night (at Webb)
Monday, 4/4	Yankee Candle Orders Due
Monday, 4/4	Strawberry Fest Planning Meeting
Tuesday, 4/5	Golf Tournament Planning Meeting
4/11-4/15	TV Turn Off Week:
Monday, 4/11	Barnes & Noble Bookfair
Tuesday, 4/12	Chili's Restaurant Night
Wednesday, 4/13	Bingo Night
Thursday, 4/14	PTO Meeting
Friday, 4/15	Sock Hop
Friday, 4/15	Spirit Day: Earth Day
Saturday, 6/11	Strawberry Fest



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

Fore!

Hello Emerson-Williams family. I know it may seem a little soon to be talking golf, but planning is everything if we want to be successful again. As reported last year, the 1st Annual EW Golf Tournament raised just over \$4,000 with a relatively small number of golfers playing. All \$4,000 was deposited into our playscape fund and has laid a great foundation on a very large and expensive project that the PTO is working hard to achieve in the next few years for existing and incoming children.

With that said, the Emerson-Williams 2nd Annual golf tournament planning is well underway. We have secured a course and date, at a very reasonable price. This year, the tournament will be on the Gary Player course at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, CT. A 9:00am shotgun on August 11th will be our time and date. The price per golfer will be \$125 a golfer. I have attached a direct link to the course's website (<http://www.lymangolf.com>).

Our committee is extremely excited about this year's tournament and is already planning on equaling or surpassing the prizes that were handed out at last year's tournament. Last year, we handed out a flat screen TV, 2 complimentary round trip airfare tickets donated by jetBlue airways, 7+ rounds of golf for 4 to reputable golf courses in the area, including one to Hartford Golf Club, as well as "night out" gift cards.

So, we need the support of our Emerson-Williams community this year. More golfers from our school is what it comes down to. We would like to double our field, and we feel that is more than possible. We know there are golfers in our school that can help support our event and thus support the fundraising to pay for the playscape that is for our school. The purpose of sending this out in March is so we can give everyone at our school plenty of time to prepare for the event, as well as talk it up to your friends and family. We had a blast last year, and the pictures are still up on the

website. We would love for our teachers to play as well!!! We will be updating the Golf website (on our PTO website) with prizes as we collect them, as well as the menu once that has been finalized. So please check it out in the upcoming months so you are up to speed on the hard work being done!

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 860-538-3698 or e-mail me at plaperriere.pto@gmail.com. Brochures with all the details will be going out soon. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at the tournament in August!!!

Paul LaPerriere
Chairman, Golf Tournament



Yankee Candle Fundraiser

If you haven't already, you will soon be receiving the Yankee Candle Spring 2011 fundraising catalog. There are lots of beautiful new products in there, as well as old favorites as well. Please return any orders by Monday, April 4. A gift from this year's Yankee Candle catalog would make a great Mother's Day gift!



Movie Night



We will be holding our annual Family Movie Night on Friday, April 1 at 7:00pm in the Webb Elementary School Auditorium. Join us to watch The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG) starring Nicolas Cage. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. 6th grade students will also be selling candy and cupcakes. Please note that all students MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Box Tops Update

Please remember to keep saving your Box Tops for Education. We will be having a school-wide contest in the month of April, more details to follow.



CREATIVE ARTS



Music, Dance, Puppets, Mime, Opera, Storytelling, Theater, Poetry, Jazz, Ballet, Shakespeare, Hip

Hop our children are so fortunate to be exposed to so many different kinds of performing arts! Thanks to the Wethersfield Creative Arts Council, performing artists have been visiting the Wethersfield schools for 50 years!

The town-wide Creative Arts Fund Drive is ongoing in March.

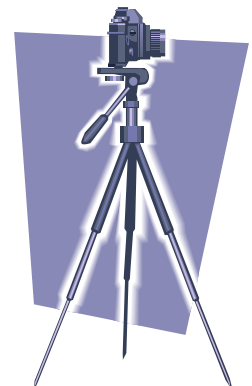
The total cost of this year's programming is approximately \$13,000. Funding comes solely from voluntary donations. We are counting on the support of parents to help us to continue bringing in artists for the five elementary schools and the middle school.

A notice has been sent home with each child, requesting a donation from each family. Please support the arts in our schools by donating to the Creative Arts Fund Drive. Help us to continue providing your children with outstanding programs featuring amazing artists, dancers, actors, and musicians.

Thank you for your generous support. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Lopez at 563-2292 or Deb Murphy at 563-2391.

Say "Cheese"!

Get ready for spring school pictures! What to wear? Your best smile! Spring pictures will be taken on Friday, March 25. Simply choose your favorite background look on the form that was sent home and send the completed form in with your student. No payment is due at this time. Every student's picture will be taken, but you are under no obligation to purchase anything. You will receive the pictures to review in a few weeks. If you like them, send in payment. If you don't, just send back the pictures. Thanks!





A FREE SEMINAR FOR PARENTS

A Parent's Toolbox for Risky Behavior

featuring **Dr. Joyce Walter**,
Director of Health and Wellness @ Wesleyan University

and

MADD POWERTALK 21

The Power of Parents

Lauren Iannucci

MADD produced Parent Handbook for all attendees

Q & A / Discussion to follow

Thursday, April 28, 7pm

Wethersfield Town Hall, Council Chambers

TV Turn Off Week Details



We have a great line-up of activities for this year's TV Turn Off Week. As mentioned in last month's Tiger Topics, 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.

Here is a rundown of this year's TV Turn Off Events:

Monday, April 11:

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Head over to the Glastonbury Barnes & Noble for some spring book shopping. E-W will receive a percentage of in-store and online sales. See the flyer on page 9 for details.

Tuesday, April 12:

Restaurant Night at Chili's

Grab your family and head to dinner at Chili's on the Berlin Turnpike. Let the teachers serve you! See the flyer on page 7 for details.

Wednesday, April 13:

Bingo Night

Join us for a fun night of bingo! Admission is just \$1 per student. We will also have a raffle with movie tickets, books, games, gift cards and many other items! We will hold this event at Emerson-Williams, not at the high school as in years past. Also, you are invited to bring the following to share:

Families with last name A-I
Families with last name J-S
Families with last name T-Z

Dessert or fruit
Bottled water or juice boxes/pouches
Pretzels, chips or other "munchies"

Thursday, April 14:

PTO Meeting

We have lots of great things planned for this spring, come to the meeting and get involved! Rumor has it that one or more Board of Education representatives will be at the April PTO meeting to discuss next year's budget. Come and get the information first-hand and ask any questions you may have.

Friday, April 15:

Sock Hop

Cap the week off with some old-fashioned fun! Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks on this fun family event!

CHILI'S® CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO EMERSON WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NIGHT!

Chili's proudly supports EMERSON
WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

With each flyer presented on EMERSON WILLIAMS
Night, Chili's will donate 10% of the sales you bring
in to your organization. Let us do the cooking and
support your EMERSON WILLIAMS at the same
time!

EMERSON WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Night
is:

TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2011

from

4 PM to 11 PM

Only at:

Chili's Grill & Bar

3017 Berlin Tpke.

Newington, CT

860-667-9063

We look forward to seeing you here.
Pepper in Some Fun!



Big Mouth® Bites



Molten Chocolate Cake

Notes from the Nurse ...



6th graders:

Keep getting the physical forms in to me. I still have many students that have not gotten them in. You will not be allowed to enter 7th grade in September without one.

*** New immunization requirements for 7th grade are:

- *Adolescent Tdap Vaccine
- *Second Varicella Vaccine
- *Meningococcal Vaccine

5th and 6th graders:

A notice will be going out soon for Scoliosis Screening. If you have any questions please call me.

SAVE THE DATE - BLOOD DRIVE!

Emerson-Williams will be sponsoring a blood drive on May 24th from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm here at EW. We need a great EW family turnout!!!! You may see me regarding an appointment or visit the give blood website at Redcrossblood.org.

BMI:

I am sure many of you have heard about it. Body Mass Index is a number calculated from a person's weight and height. BMI provides a reliable indicator of body fatness for most people and is used to screen for weight categories that may lead to health problems. It is also a good indicator in children's health. Please visit the Center for Disease control and Prevention website [www.cdc.gov] to find valuable information regarding BMI as well as use the BMI calculator to find out what your families' BMIs are.

Linda Ciarcia, RN, BSN
School Nurse

Upcoming Fundraisers

Need an idea for a Father's Day gift? Look no further! We will be selling durable 18 oz. spirit cups that are durable and dishwasher safe. Whether you root for the Red Sox or the Yankees, the Patriots or the Giants, the Huskies or the Hoyas, we have the cup for you! All 32 NFL teams, 30 MLB clubs, over 90 colleges and 5 US Military designs are offered. Stay tuned for more details!



Take School to the Beach! We will be selling Emerson-Williams beach towels just in time for the beautiful weather. These thick towels will last for many summers to come, and the bright color will ensure that they don't get lost among the sea of other towels at the beach.



SAVE
THE DATE

Emerson-Williams
**Barnes & Noble
Bookfair**



Monday, April 11 3:00 – 9:00pm

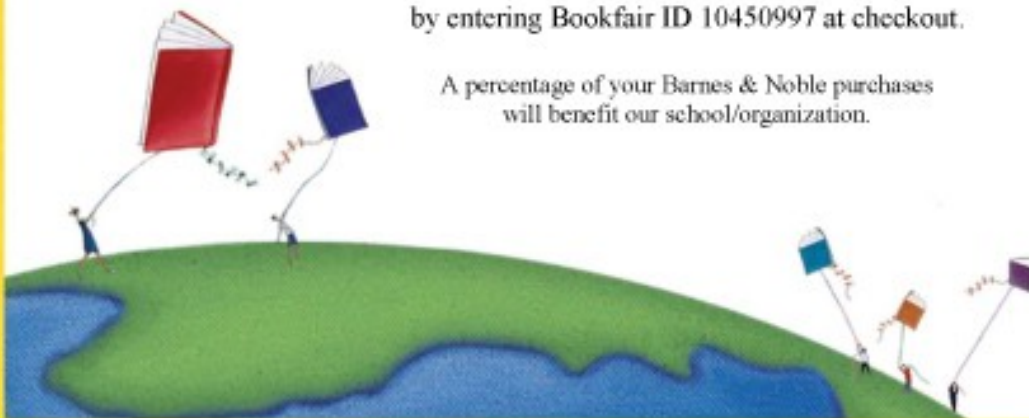
**Barnes & Noble Somerset Square
Glastonbury, CT
860-657-1636**

- Participate in Story Time!
- Get your picture taken with Stripes!
(specific event times will be set soon)

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from 04/11/11 to 04/16/11
by entering Bookfair ID 10450997 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases
will benefit our school/organization.



Strawberry Fest Classroom Baskets



Dear Emerson- Williams Parents,

The Emerson- Williams Annual Strawberry Festival is almost here. We are in need of raffle donations to make our class "Theme Baskets" that were such a huge success last year. We have listed the classroom themes below along with some suggestions. These are only suggestions and any donation would be extremely appreciated.

- Kindergarten Disney Basket (Anything Disney- games, movies, toys, snacks...)
- 1st Grade Book/Reading Basket (Children's books, bookmarks, gift cards to a book store...)
- 2nd Grade Summer Fun Basket (summer toys, sunscreen, beach towels...)
- 3rd Grade Family Game Night Basket (Board games, cards, puzzles...)
- 4th Grade Arts and Craft Basket (Construction paper, crayons, craft kits...)
- 5th Grade Movie Basket (DVDs, popcorn, popcorn bowls...)
- 6th Grade School Supplies Basket (paper, notebook, folders...)

We ask that your child bring the donated item to their class and we will pick up the items and make the baskets for the Festival. All items must be brought to the school by **Friday, May 27th**. As always, on behalf of the PTO, we appreciate your continued support. We would not succeed without generous and continued parental support. Thanks for your time and donations and we will see you at the Strawberry Festival!

A Few Final Notes of Thanks ...

Thank you to Michele Livingston for sweetening our teachers Valentine's Day. She provided some delicious treats for them to enjoy.

Thanks to Martin Malicki for heading up a very successful Butter Braids fundraiser!

Thanks to Janet Vasel, Amber Kiniry and Andrea Ginter for taking time out of their busy schedules to help clean out and organize the PTO closet.

THANKS!