

**2011-2012 PTO
MEETING
SCHEDULE**

March 15
April 12
May 10
June 14

All meetings take place
at 7pm in the Upper
Media Center.

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Tiger Topics

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

MARCH 2012

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

As most of you know, the Connecticut Mastery Tests began on Tuesday, March 5th. Both the teachers and I have spoken to the students in grades 3-6 and encouraged them to do their best. Our curriculum is designed to address the concepts in the CMT, and our School Improvement Plan is also designed to address these same concepts.

This past week, the teachers in grades K-6 reported on their progress in regard to their responsibilities as outlined in the School Improvement Plan. The common goals for each grade level are: to implement the curriculum, continually assess students both formally and informally and to adjust instruction as needed, to create rubrics so that there are standards that all students should meet, to review and analyze the data that is compiled from district wide and in-class assessments, to differentiate instruction and to monitor and assist students who are not progressing as they should.

In addition to the three academic goals of reading, writing and math, Emerson-Williams has a climate goal. One objective of the climate goal is to develop a School Climate Committee that is designed to develop and foster a safe school climate and address issues related to bullying. This Safe School Climate Committee is part of the Connecticut Legislature's law to address bullying. School members of the committee received Safe School Climate training by the Discovery Center, and all members found this training very informative. The committee is seeking a parent or guardian of an Emerson-Williams student(s) to be a member. If any of you would like to be considered for that committee, please contact the school office at 860-563-9638. You will be contacted in regard to the committee meeting dates.

In closing, I would like to thank all the families who responded to the PTO's request for breakfast bars and juice for the students taking the CMTs. It is a boost for those students that ate their breakfast earlier in the morning or for those students who may decline breakfast at home.

PTO Meeting Date Change!

The March PTO meeting will now take place on Thursday evening, March 15 at 7pm in the Wethersfield High School cafeteria. We will hold an abbreviated meeting and will then take a tour of the high school by representatives from the Yes to WHS! Group. We hope you can join us. If you have not yet had the chance to tour the high school, we strongly encourage you to go on the tour. Thanks!

PTO Highlights

With all the information packed into this issue, we will keep this article short and sweet. Please take a few moments to read about our upcoming events and mark your calendars. Also think about which activities you may want to get involved with as a volunteer. We would welcome your assistance with these great events, and for those of you who haven't been involved before, we would love to get to know you and your family. Emerson-Williams has a great community network of which you should take advantage.

With CMTs gearing up for students in grades 3 through 6, it is especially important to make sure that students get enough sleep and eat a healthy breakfast before heading to school. Let's give our kids the best start possible each day!

We hope you plan to join us on March 30 for the 6th Annual E-W Talent Show. We have a truly exceptional group of students who will be performing for you. It takes courage at any age to perform on stage in front of hundreds of people, and all these students are to be commended. We think you will really love the show!

That's it for now, and as always, please feel free to contact either one of us if you have any suggestions on how we can make your child's educational experience even better.

Regards,

Andrea Ginter, 2nd Year Co-President
Martin Malicki, 1st Year Co-President

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up:

Thursday, 3/8	Submission Deadline for Talent Show Cover Contest
Thursday, 3/15	PTO Meeting and WHS Tour
Friday, 3/23	Wethersfield Spelling Bee
Thursday, 3/29	Talent Show Dress Rehearsal
Friday, 3/30	Mismatch Day—Wear clothes that don't match!
Friday, 3/30	Talent Show
Wednesday, 4/11	Elementary Schools Festival Concert
Friday, 4/13	Earth Day—Wear green!
4/15—4/20	TV Turn Off Week (<i>partial list below</i>):
Sunday, 4/15	Family Roller Skating at Ron-A-Roll
Monday, 4/16	Public Hearing on Proposed Budget
Tuesday, 4/17	Restaurant Night at Wood'n'Tap
Friday, 4/20	Movie Night
Sunday, 5/6	E-W Day at the Rock Cats
Monday, 5/14	Spring Choral/Instrumental Concert
Thursday, 6/7	Art Show
Saturday, 6/9	Strawberry Fest
Saturday, 7/28	3rd Annual Golf Tournament



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

Free Tickets!!

Want a chance to win two free tickets to this year's Talent Show? Get your family together and see how many different words you can come up with using the letters in "TALENT SHOW". The entry with the most valid words will win two tickets to the talent show. In the event of a tie, we will draw a winner from the winning entries. To enter, e-mail your list of words to Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com no later than March 15. Good luck!

Artist Recognition

Congratulations to Declan Hallinan and Nathan Malicki, both in grade 3. Their artwork was chosen to represent Emerson-Williams in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/Wethersfield Public School Youth Art Appreciation Program. Declan's artwork will be displayed at Wethersfield Town Hall and Nathan's artwork will be displayed at Burger King.

Tiger Topics Health Tips

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



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.

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.

Mixed Bags



Please look for a catalog and order form coming home in back packs (youngest & only). The fundraiser will run from 3/5 - 3/16. Some samples are available for viewing.

Questions/Concerns? Contact Janet Vasel ajavasel@cox.net.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now and plan to come to Emerson-Williams Family Day with the New Britain Rock Cats. The game is on Sunday, May 6 at 1:35pm. Stay tuned for more details! We will be sitting at the field box level and a portion of the ticket price will go to the PTO. Questions? Contact Paula Heinzmann at paulapto@yahoo.com. Thanks!





Last Call!

Last call for Butter Braid and cookie dough orders! All orders must be received by Tuesday, March 6. Delivery will be on Wednesday, March 14.

Help Wanted ...

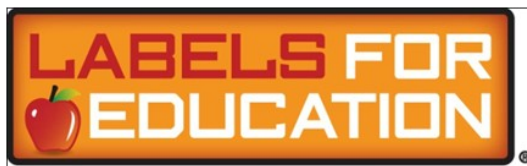
The Emerson-Williams Art Show will take place on Thursday, June 7. Every E-W student will have artwork displayed around the school at this wonderful event.

We are currently seeking parent volunteers who are willing to help mount artwork for the art show. The mounting can be done at times that are convenient for the volunteers.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Martin Malicki at lmal@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!



Don't forget to keep saving those Box Tops!!! For every Box Top you collect, Emerson-Williams earns \$0.10. While that may not seem like a lot, it really adds up fast! Also, if you work in an office environment, ask your copy/print services department to save Box Tops for you—many Avery products and even Boise copier paper have Box Tops on them!



Don't forget to keep saving Labels for Education! These labels can be found on lots of participating products, from Campbell's to Pepperidge Farm to Prego and more! Visit www.labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of participating products.

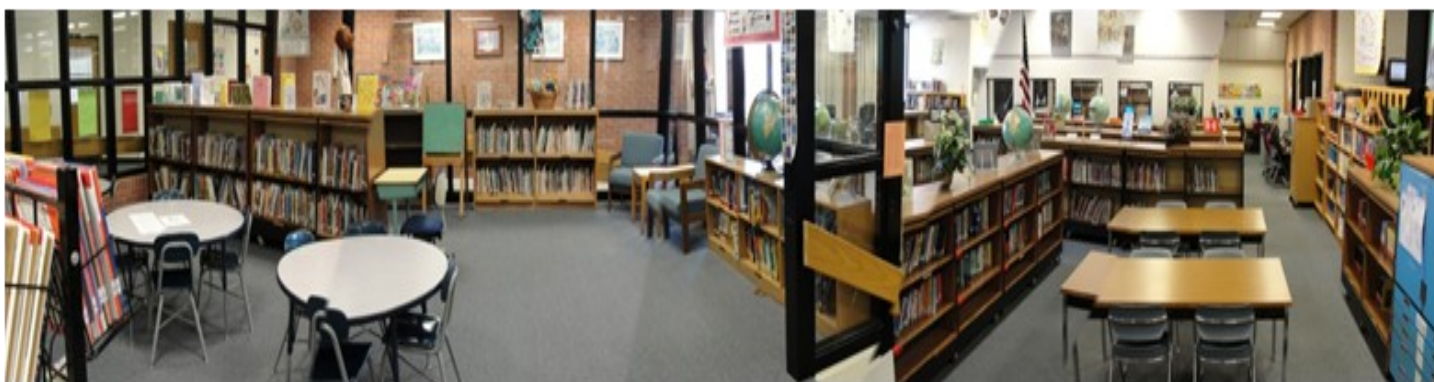
For juice products, please save the caps and for other products look for the bar code or "Labels for Education" logo inside a rectangle (see the sample below).

Don't Forget To



www.facebook.com/ewpto





News from the Media Center



I am pleased to announce that you and your child/children can now search the media center's catalog from home. Simply visit the Wethersfield Public School Home Page <http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us> and locate "DESTINY LIBRARY" at the far right of the page. This allows the students to search in advance from home and make a list of the books they want to peruse when they get to school. Now when visiting the media center, the students can pull the books and get to work on their project immediately, without using valuable time in searching.

Although we do not have any e-Books purchased at this time, our goal is to develop an e-Book selection on DESTINY LIBRARY so your child/children will be able to read a particular book on-line from home while doing homework or working on that special project. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

Doreen Corsair



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 will be ongoing from March 5-16, 2012.

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 will be 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 Julie Lemos at 463-0426 or julielemos@att.net.

Please Save The Date
Emerson-Williams
Free Family Movie Night
April 20th, 2012

Webb Elementary School Auditorium
Movie will begin at 6:30 PM
Refreshments Will Be Served

All Children MUST be accompanied by an adult.



HELP US HELP OUR SCHOOL.

Did you know there's an easy way to save money AND 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. In addition, you receive 5% off your Target purchases every day!

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



Talent Show Countdown ...

We are hard at work planning the 6th annual Emerson-Williams Talent Show. As a reminder, the show will take place at 7pm on Friday, March 30, 2012 in the Wethersfield High School Auditorium. The show will be a little shorter this year, which we think everyone will appreciate. A few things to note:

- We are holding a program cover design contest—submissions are due Thursday, March 8. For full rules, please visit www.ewpto.com.
- Want to show your support to a cast member? We will be publishing cast messages in the talent show program. Watch for a sign-up sheet coming soon.
- You can save time the night of the event by ordering your tickets in advance. An order form will be coming soon.

If you have any questions, please contact Michele Quadrato at miq325@cox.net or Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com. Thanks!

Book Level Information

Gary Petersen, Curriculum Specialist in district, has provided this information to families. We hope it is very helpful to you.

What does a book level mean?

One of the most important ideas in Readers Workshop is having children read volumes of books at their “just right level”. That means teachers have taken the time to assess students to determine a book level of sophistication that your child can read independently. Work has been done to determine what the characteristics of each level of book are. Criteria range from simple to complex characters, multiple plots, actions and themes. The higher the letter in the alphabet, the more sophisticated the book. The range goes from A to Z. These levels are becoming more and more universal. The level that Wethersfield uses is the GUIDED READING LEVEL books, often called the Fountas /Pinnell level, named for the reading professors who developed the system. Teachers also have tools to show a correlation with the DRA II Levels in which our district is also familiar.

The reading level is different for every child and we do not limit children to just one level. We use bands of texts, so if your child reads at a level R, we might suggest

books at a Q, R, S band, knowing that other factors influence reading success, such as background knowledge and motivation. The reason levels are important to try to pinpoint is rather logical; why would you want to spend your time reading something you don’t understand? Reading old favorites that are below your level is a wonderful idea as long as the reader doesn’t only read books below their level.

To assist you in helping your child select just right books, we are providing two links that teachers regularly use to level their classroom libraries to provide just right books for you children.

Book Wizard: by scholastic and the Fountas and Pinnell websites allows you search a number of different leveling systems. Be sure to switch the ‘chooser’ to guided reading level.

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>
<http://www.fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com/>

Happy book hunting!



Less than 5 months until the tournament!



Wethersfield Schools District PTO Spelling Bee
Sponsored by the school's Parent Teacher Organizations



Eligible Grades 1-6
Friday, March 23, 2012
www.wethersfieldbee.com

Grades 1-6 from all five public elementary schools are welcome to register for the spelling bee. All spellers will spell individually. The event will take place at the Wethersfield High School and spellers are encouraged to wear black and yellow. Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner up and token prizes to all participants.

Students can begin registering by going to www.wethersfieldbee.com and click on registration form. Register by filling in the required fields and click submit. * Practice materials are on the website separated by age group, plus all the rules, puzzles, and more!

Volunteer Judges needed (parents, teachers, local celebrities), plus face painters, and more. If interested please contact your school's contact person(s) or go to www.wethersfieldbee.com

Highcrest	Webb	Charles Wright	Hanmer	Emerson Williams
Leslie Esoian 860-563-4855	Michele Meehan 860-558-9660	Hannah Granfield 860- 416-4722	Jill Swoverland E: nkswov@att.net	Mrs. Cookson shartford@wethersfield.k12.ct.us
Kathleen Stickley 860-529-2051		Meredith Banet 860-836-9825	Marianne Lienau E: lienau1@gmail.com	Ms. McCabe emccabe@wethersfield.k12.ct.us

Deadline for registration is Friday, March 9, 2012

* If students do not have a computer at home, we ask that they use the computers at the local library and or the computers in their school's media center (with permission) if possible. Otherwise, use the sign-up sheet below and submit to your school labeled Spelling Bee.

Spellers, Please consider participating in the Great American SpellCheck! Forms attached or go to www.wethersfieldbee.com/greatamericanspellcheck

Spelling Bee Sign-Up (return in backpack labeled PTO-Spelling Bee)

1) Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ School _____

Phone Number _____ Parent Signature _____

2) Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ School _____

Phone Number _____ Parent Signature _____

This event is not a Wethersfield Board of Education sponsored event and is solely being run by the Parent Teacher Organizations(s) from each of the five participating public elementary schools.

Grocery Store Gift Cards

We are off to a really great start with our grocery store gift card program! We currently make approximately \$400 per month for the Playscape Fund. Without spending any extra money beyond what you are already spending on your grocery bills, you too can help the PTO raise the funds we need to replace our playscape. The PTO will earn 11% profit on every gift card purchased, which may not sound like a lot, but it adds up fast! For example, if only 50 families commit to purchasing \$200 in gift cards per month (which is likely just a portion of your monthly grocery bill), the PTO would earn **\$11,000** in the course of just one year. WOW! Now just imagine what we could do if all our E-W families participate. Below are some FAQs about the program. If you have more questions, feel free to contact Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com or at 860-251-9125.

For what stores can I purchase gift cards?

We are currently selling gift cards for Stop & Shop, Price Chopper and Shoprite. As a side note, you can use Stop & Shop gift cards when shopping with Peapod and you can use Shoprite gift cards at both Shoprite and Pricerite.

Can I get gift cards for other stores/restaurants?

You can use your grocery store gift cards to purchase a variety of retailer gift cards at the grocery stores, expanding our fundraising potential exponentially!

What about Gas Rewards?

You still earn gas rewards at Stop & Shop and Price Chopper if you pay by gift card.

Why am I being asked to commit to a recurring subscription?

We have found that without a monthly or bi-monthly subscription, it is much easier to forget. With a subscription, you have a built-in system to get your cards. Keep in mind that this subscription is not binding and you can cancel at any time. We do have a limited supply available on an as needed basis.

Where can I find the order form?

You can find the order form by going to www.ewpto.com. Order forms are also available in the school office.

What forms of payment do you accept?

You can pay for the gift cards by cash or check payable to EWPTO. You can even set up a recurring payment if you bank online.



Wethersfield Schools Parent Council (WSPC)
Volunteer Recognition Awards
2011-12 Nomination Form

The WSPC Recognition Award is intended to recognize one individual* from each school (and/or a single individual or group of people in the case of the Community Award) who have made a volunteer commitment to benefit the education or social experience of the children in the Wethersfield public school system. This person or people have involved themselves above and beyond their expected role, and is (are) thereby identified as an asset to the Wethersfield community through their efforts and/or volunteerism. ***Please note only one (1) person, per school can receive an Individual Award.**

WSPC reserves the right to evaluate and approve each application to insure nominees meet all requirements.

I would like to nominate

Address _____

Phone _____

Type of nomination: ___ Individual Award ___ Community Award

Does this person work outside of the home? If so, where?

Does this person have children? If so, please list their names and schools they attend:

Please list all volunteer committees this nominee serves on:

_____ (please add pages as necessary)

I feel this nominee meets the requirements for this year's WSPC Recognition Award because:

_____ (please add pages as necessary)

Your Name: _____

Address and Phone Number: _____

Thank You!

Nominations for the 2011-2012 WSPC Recognition Awards should be returned to your WSPC school representative by 3 p.m. on March 23rd. Nominees will be voted on at the April PTO/PAC/PTSA meeting. Please plan to attend that meeting to support your nomination. Please submit this form to your school in an envelope marked "WSPC Volunteer Award."

You are invited!

**Emerson Williams Elementary
School Fundraiser at Wood n Tap**

**Tuesday, April 17th
Anytime between 5pm - 10pm**

Bring this invitation to
Wood n Tap Rocky Hill
12 Town Line Road
And 10% of your check will be donated to
Emerson Williams Elementary School

Flyer applies to Dine in or Take Out !



Complete the information below and enter to win a
\$25 Gift Card @ the end of the night!

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____



**For more information, please contact
Tonya Malloy at 860-529-6926**

For Reservations please call 860-571-9444



55 Town Line Rd.
Wethersfield, CT
(860) 529-9555

Canton

Newington

West Hartford

We Will Make You SMILE!

www.RosenbergOrtho.com