

2010-2011 PTO
MEETING
SCHEDULE

May 12
June 9

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Tiger Topics

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

MAY 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

As I read through this month's issue of Tiger Topics, it is so apparent that our PTO is providing a rich variety of activities for students and families. The PTO traditionally sponsors an author to come in and spend time talking to students about how they became an author and sharing their work. This year, however, the PTO sponsored Rob Surette, the hero artist. Mrs. Michele Lavoie coordinated this event. Mrs. Lavoie's efforts are much appreciated.

Mr. Surette performed for the entire school on April 29th. He was truly amazing, as he inspired students to do their best, showcased past and present heroes and drew pictures of these heroes in record time. The students loved the show and his message of following your dreams. One student was so moved by the performance, he commented



to his teacher that "...the artist was so touching." Many students commented that this was the best show that they had ever seen at Emerson-Williams.

There are numerous field trips at this time of the year.

Thirty of current fifth graders just returned from a week long experience at the Discovery Center Camp in Woodstock, CT. Our sixth graders have many activities planned including a trip to Boston, as they complete their final year in elementary school. Their "Step-Up" Ceremony will be held on Wednesday evening, June 22nd at 7:00 P.M.

I hope that you and your children will be able to participate in the many events planned for the spring.



Golf Tournament Update

Plans for the August 11 Golf Tournament at Lyman Orchards Golf Club are coming together nicely, but we need your help! We have created two different brochures—one for golfers and another for sponsors. Please take a moment to forward the link to the brochures by e-mail to all of your personal and business contacts, post the link to your Facebook profile, and spread the word about this great event. The brochures can be found at <http://ewpto.com/2011-Golf-Brochures.php>. Please consider sending the tournament information to friends, relatives and business colleagues—it is not necessary to have a child at E-W to enjoy a fun day of golf or to promote your business. If you are in need of printed brochures for your workplace or to send to your employer's marketing/charitable contributions department, please contact Paul LaPerriere at golf@ewpto.com. Thanks and see you on the green!



PTO Highlights

As we all know, the PTO is made up of wonderful volunteers that consist of working parents with lots of responsibilities. Yet, there are some volunteers who still make the effort to go above and beyond the regular call of duty. That is why the WSPC (Wethersfield School Parent Council) collects nominees and after a vote, the selected volunteer is acknowledged at a special ceremony. This year, Andrea Ginter was selected to receive the honor, and I would like to personally thank her for all of her tremendous efforts that have really helped pull together our Emerson-Williams community. From her brilliant coordination of the Emerson-Williams PTO web site, her continuous publishing of Tiger Topics, and her assistance in TV Turn-Off week (just to name a few), we are all very grateful for her generosity and her time. Two other parents who were also nominated, Martin Malicki, and Michele Livingston, have also done an outstanding job in creating so many positive opportunities. We don't always get a chance to recognize those that work behind the scenes, but I think this is a great time to let them know that we appreciate them! Congratulations to all of you!

As we finished up April, we were already planning all of May and June's fun events! We had such a blast with all the families who were

able to help coordinate and those who were able to participate in our TV Turn-Off week. We were so happy to see all of the interest in turning off the TV, hopefully you were all able to fit a little more quality family time into your schedule! Our busy parent volunteers have so much going on in their regular schedule, but they still make time to coordinate so many fun events, such as the Barnes & Noble Book Fair, Family Night at Chili's, Bingo Night, a Sock Hop, and Poetry Night. We hope that you had an opportunity to enjoy some of these recent events.

The Strawberry Festival is well on its way and we understand that many of you still want to help, so please contact Andrea Ginter or myself if you have any ideas or questions. In the meantime, we hope to see you at our spring "Dinner on the Lawn" on Wednesday, May 25th! That's always a fun time to just grab a picnic and visit with some of our Emerson-Williams' families. We thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you during the last several weeks of school!

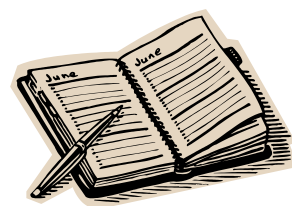
Regards,

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up:

Tuesday, 5/10	Budget Input Meeting
Thursday, 5/12	PTO Meeting
Friday, 5/13	Box Tops Dues
Friday, 5/13	Beach Towel Orders Due
Tuesday, 5/17	Appreciation Day: 4-6
Friday, 5/20	Appreciation Day: K-3
Friday, 5/20	Spirit Day: Wicked Cool T-Shirt Day
Sunday, 5/22	Spring Clean-Up Day
Wednesday, 5/25	Dinner on the Lawn
Friday, 6/3	Jog-a-Thon
Thursday, 6/9	PTO Meeting
Saturday, 6/11	Strawberry Fest
Thursday, 6/16	E-W Night at Rita's
Thursday, 6/23	Last Day of School
Thursday, 8/11	Golf Tournament



Dinner on the Lawn



We are planning a springtime dinner on the lawn on Wednesday, May 25 from 5-8pm. So pack a picnic dinner or grab a pizza and join us for a relaxing evening. For dessert, plan to sample some products (various crumb cakes and pies) from Something Sweet, a fundraiser we plan to run next year. For entertainment, we may even organize a kickball or softball game. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

Appreciation Days

Tuesday, May 17 and Friday, May 20 are Appreciation Days at Emerson-Williams. On these days, we are having the students present Certificates of Appreciation to a special grandparent, aunt, uncle, relative, neighbor, etc. If the student's guest cannot come in the day assigned to the class, the student will receive a certificate that they can give or mail to the person. The class and their guests will assemble for a **brief** program in the student's classroom where the child will present the certificate to their guest and explain why that person is appreciated. We ask that only the honored guests and parents of the children are present due to space and time issues. If you have not yet returned the form indicating who your student's special guest will be, please do that today! Extra copies of the form can be found on the PTO website. The schedule for the Appreciation Days is below. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Lavoie at dancewme430@cox.net.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Morning Kindergarten	Friday, May 20	9:30AM—10:00AM
Afternoon Kindergarten	Friday, May 20	12:30PM—1:00PM
Grade 1	Friday, May 20	10:30AM—11:00AM
Grade 2	Friday, May 20	12:30PM—1:00PM
Grade 3	Friday, May 20	9:00AM—9:30AM
Grade 4	Tuesday, May 17	11:00AM—11:30AM
Grade 5	Tuesday, May 17	9:00AM—9:30AM
Grade 6	Tuesday, May 17	10:00AM—10:30AM

Reminder!

Beach towel orders are due this Friday, May 13. Order yours today!



Spring Cleaning at E-W!

Sunday, May 22nd, 9 - 11 AM

Please consider joining us and beautify our courtyard and the front of our school.

Grab your rakes, brooms, wheel barrow and some friends and enjoy the beauty of our school.

Please RSVP to Janet Vasel, ajavasel@cox.net



Strawberry Fest Update

Plans for the Annual Strawberry Fest are in full swing. The Fest will take place on Saturday, June 11 from 10-2 (rain or shine).

Have you ever heard of Rolling Video Games? It's a climate-controlled video game theater with FOUR widescreen high-def TVs covering the walls in front of custom stadium seats with built-in vibration motors synched to the on-screen action with speakers in front and back. Everything is linked, so 16 players can play the same game – or against each other! Play as a team enjoy different games, because there are plenty to choose from – all the newest games from Wii, Playstation 3 and Xbox 360 with a "Game Coach" to help anyone who needs it. This awesome attraction will be at the Fest for your enjoyment from 11-1.



Another new addition this year will be the Cupcake Castle. Similar to the mobile cupcake trucks recently made popular, you will have the opportunity to choose your flavor of cupcake as well as frosting and decoration options. It's the perfect sweet treat!



On the raffle front, we have been hard at work securing lots of great prizes. Among them are the 2011 American Girl Doll of the Year and a week at SoccerPlus summer camp. For you stampers or scrapbookers out there, Stampin' Up! Has donated over \$300 worth of products for our raffle. The list of prizes keeps growing, and we are sure that you will find something that you just have to win!

If you are willing to bake for the ever-popular Cake Walk, please contact Phoebe Ostergren at postergren@juno.com.

Ready to make a splash? Special thanks to Mr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Cookson and Mrs. Kardys who have already stepped up and volunteered to sit in our dunk tank. Will your favorite teacher or staff member be there? Be sure to ask them to help out!



Speaking of helping out, you will soon be contacted (if you haven't already) by one of your class room parents to help out for a little while at the Strawberry Fest. "It takes a village" certainly applies to this event, and if everyone pitches in for just 30-60 minutes at some point during the day, we will ALL be able to have a wonderful time. As an extra thank you, we will be holding a "volunteer raffle" - the name of each Strawberry Fest volunteer will be entered into a raffle for a gift card to a local restaurant.

Based of the feedback we received from the online survey, we have made a change to the "prize system". Instead of collecting coins at each game station to later redeem for prizes, we will be giving each child a goodie bag. We think this new system will work well, eliminating the need to carry around coins and prizes during the Fest. Your child can just concentrate on enjoying the games throughout the day and then grab the goodie bag on your way out.

Additional details can be found at www.ewpto.com. See you there!

Jog-A-Thon

The Third Annual Emerson-Williams Jog-A-Thon will take place on Friday, June 3 (rain date June 10). Students will collect sponsor donations and run, jog or walk for 25 minutes. This fun activity promotes wellness through physical activity and also helps raise funds for enrichment programs. A copy of the sponsor form that was sent home can be found on the PTO website under “digital backpack”. If you are able to volunteer at this event, please contact Michele Lavoie at dancewme430@cox.net. Thanks!



Spirit Cups Fundraiser



We will be starting our Spirit Cups fundraiser next week. These durable 18 oz. spirit cups are 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. The cups come in packs of 4 and cost \$15. When you are in your student’s classroom next week for Appreciation Day, be sure to check out the sample cup that is displayed in the classroom. Sample cups will also be on display in the office and during the May 25 dinner on the lawn. Thanks for your support!

Reminder!

Box Top submissions are due this Friday, May 13. The class with the most Box Tops will win a popcorn party. Thank you!



Student Recognition

Congratulations to Jeremy Gilbert in grade 1 and Jonathan Skowronek in grade 2. Jeremy’s sunflower collage and Jonathan’s painting to music were chosen to represent Emerson-Williams School in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/ Wethersfield Public School Youth Art appreciation Program.

E-W Night at Rita’s

We will be holding a Springtime E-W Night at Rita’s on the Silas Deane Highway in Rocky Hill. Stop by on Thursday, June 16 from 6-9pm and a portion of your purchase will be donated by Rita’s to the PTO. Have a baseball/softball/soccer game that night? No problem! Come by after the game—it will be a perfect time to cool off with a sweet treat.



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!

Final Notes of Thanks ...

A special thanks to Miss Brenda McLaughlin and all the great bakers and helpers during "A Night of Poetry": Doreen Corsair, Jara Darka, Jimmy Discenza, Andrea Ginter, Ted Griswold, Paula Heinzmann, Amber Kiniry, Jackie LaPerriere, Efrain Rodriguez, Stavro Tata, Janet Vasel and Katharina Cacioli.

Thank you to Darka Jara and Cindy Augustine for the wonderful April Teacher Appreciation.

Thanks to Michele Lavoie for coordinating the April 29 Amazing Hero Art Show for the students.

Thank you to Mrs. Doreen Corsair for offering to lead story time at Barnes & Noble during TV Turn-Off week.

Thanks to Lauren Barbara and Jen Derick for heading up our successful (and fun!) Chili's Night fundraiser, and to all the teachers and staff who volunteered at the event.

Thanks to George Bashura, Kelly and Zachary Weinberg, Maureen Sullivan, Patty Ayers, Janet Vasel, Paula Heinzmann, Lucy Liska and Martin Malicki for their help in making Bingo Night a success.

Thank you to all the families that attended the sock hop, we had a blast!! We had DJ K (Kat Zapor), Trivia Queen Kim Fiorino, and popcorn team Karen Landry & Andrea Ginter. Ms. Nogueira & her fifth grade class provided us with some great albums and musical notes to decorate for our sock hop. We twisted and hand jived like never

THANKS!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

**THE 14th ANNUAL
WSPC VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS
CEREMONY**

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
4:00 p.m.
Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium

THE 2010-2011 RECIPIENTS
BEING HONORED ARE:

Charles Wright Elementary.....	Mrs. Patti Silva
Emerson-WilliamsElementary.....	Mrs. Andrea Ginter
Hanmer Elementary.....	Mrs. Ellyn Laramie
Highcrest Elementary.....	Mrs. Angela Kelleher
Webb Elementary.....	Mrs. Karen McAlister
Silas Deane Middle School.....	Mrs. Rita Dikegoros
Community Awards.....	Mrs. Tracey Bielenda
	Mrs. Regina Vaughn
	&
	Mrs. Jane MacFarlane
	Mr. John MacFarlane
	Mrs. Eva Nascimento

*Please join us as we celebrate the outstanding
volunteer achievements of this years' recipients.*

*Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.
Thank you!*

Sponsored by the Wethersfield Schools Parent Council