

2011-2012 PTO
MEETING
SCHEDULE

June 14

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

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Tiger Topics

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

MAY 2012

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

During the past several weeks, the school has been very fortunate to have two fantastic performances. The PTO provided the author Julie C. Phillipps as an enrichment program. Ms Phillipps is an author from West Hartford. She has published several books, and the best known of these is Wink. Ms Phillipps shared with the students how she became an author, how she gets her ideas, and the work it takes to have a book published. The students thoroughly enjoyed her presentation and asked pertinent questions such as, "How much money do you make writing a book?" Ms Phillipps explained to them that the money earned is not that much, as compared to J.K. Rowling, but that she loves what she does. The same week that Ms Phillipps was here at EW, her book Wink was chosen by students as one of the books to receive the coveted, "15 Books Award" at the Parkview Elementary School in Minnesota. Michele Lavoie, PTO Enrichment chair, was instrumental in coordinating this visit, and the staff and students are very grateful for her hard work.

The Little Theater of the Deaf was another outstanding group that performed for the students. The Little Theater of the Deaf is the children's wing of the National Theater of the Deaf. It was established in 1968 to reach out to young audiences and has given live performances in all seven continents. There were three actors in the group that came to EW, and they performed original works, fables, classic stories and poems. This was an enjoyable and educational experience for our students. The students learned many words in sign language and gained an appreciation for the actors in the group.

It is so hard to believe that it is May. Every year, the staff and I are amazed at how fast the school year goes. The end of the year is traditionally filled with many activities, and this year is no exception. The last six weeks include field trips, the Jog-A-Thon, Field Day, the Spring Concert, the Art Show and the Strawberry Festival. We hope that your children enjoy the final weeks of school.

Did You Know?

We are currently earning approximately \$400 every month for the Playscape Fund simply by purchasing grocery store gift cards - with only approximately 20 families participating! Just IMAGINE how much we could earn if everyone got involved. It's not too late to join in! We will be running the program throughout the summer and next year as well. Just think, we could finish paying for our playscape without spending any "extra" money - just by buying our groceries with gift cards purchased from the PTO. What else can you use the gift cards for? At the grocery store, you can use your gift card to purchase gift cards for restaurants, movie theaters, home improvement stores and even Disney and Amazon.com!

To enroll in our grocery store card fundraiser, fill out the enrollment form that can be found at www.ewpto.com or contact Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com. Thanks!



PTO Highlights

Wow, what a busy spring it has been! Thanks to everyone who helped plan or took part in any of our events this spring, from TV Turn Off week to the Rock Cats game and more. We truly have a great school community! We have several more activities planned before the end of the year, so be sure to read all about them in the pages ahead.

Are you a golfer or do you know one? Please consider participating in the 2012 Golf Tournament on July 28, or recommending our tournament to a friend. In past years, we have had trouble getting golfers from the E-W community, let's fix that this year! New for this year - in addition to several other "goodies", every golfer will be given a high-quality embroidered golf shirt. Bonus!

Have you heard? Full-day kindergarten will be implemented this fall! Thanks to all the parents who have supported the effort to effect this change, led by Stephanie McKenna. Thanks also to the Town Council and the Board of Education for investing the necessary funds for this important initiative.

Congratulations to Lauren Barbara, who is this year's WSPC (Wethersfield Schools Parent Council) Volunteer Award recipient representing Emerson-Williams. Lauren was involved in many activities, including co-chairing the Holiday Store and chairing the CT Whale Game event. We are lucky to have her!

Plans are underway for the Strawberry Fest, we hope you can join us on June 9. Beyond just being a fundraiser, it is a fun event for the kids to celebrate the year and spend time with their classmates. We have some great "experiences" in our raffle this year, including Principal for a Day and Holiday Store Front of the Line passes.

Sign-ups for next year's PTO committees are in full swing. We would love for you to get involved in any capacity, as a committee chair or committee member - contact us for more details.

Regards,

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up:

Tuesday, 5/22	Blood Drive at E-W
Tuesday, 5/29	Field Day
Thursday, 5/31	Yogurt Madness Fundraiser
Thursday, 6/7	Art Show
Friday, 6/8	Stripes Day - Wear stripes in honor of our mascot!
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.

Tiger Topics Health Tips

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



Well I have seen it already! The dreaded poison ivy is back. Here are some interesting tips regarding these irritating plants:

- It is the Urushiol Oil that is the culprit with these plants [Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac]. Only a very tiny amount is needed to cause a reaction.
- 1-5 years is normal for this oil to stay active on any surface, even dead plants.
- POISON IVY RASH IS NOT CONTAGIOUS. You can only spread the rash if the oil is left on your hands.
- BREAKING THE BLISTERS OF A RASH DOES NOT SPREAD IT. The blisters contain only fluid produced by your body.
- The oil from the plant is the only thing that spreads the rash.
- DO NOT BREAK THE BLISTERS BECAUSE IT CAN CAUSE AN INFECTION. Instead, keep blistered areas covered with a gauze bandage if possible, especially on the hands and fingers.
- 90% of people are allergic to Urushiol oil. The more times you are exposed to it, the more likely it is that you will have a reaction.
- Rash usually occurs 24-48 hours after exposure. If swelling and blistering are rapid [within 4-12 hours of exposure], get emergency treatment. Go to the emergency department or call your doctor.

REMEMBER LEAVES OF THREE, LET THEM BE!!!!

ATTENTION 6TH GRADERS

I still need many more Blue Physical Forms! If a physical has not been scheduled please let me know. I need them by June 1st.

LOST BUT NOT FOUND: the lost and found is piled with mostly boys' jackets and sweatshirts. Please encourage your child to check it out. Consider putting their initials on the inside tag so we can try to narrow down whose it might be.



Poison Sumac



Poison Ivy in the spring (picture taken in mid-April in USDA zone 7a-7b). Notice that the young leaves are red and as they mature they turn their summer color of green. Characteristic 3 leaves with the middle leaf on a longer stalk.

Artist Recognition

Congratulations to Gabriela Interian and Megan Tonucci, both in grade 6. Their artwork was chosen to represent Emerson-Williams in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/Wethersfield Public School Youth Art Appreciation Program. Gabriela's artwork will be displayed at People's United Bank and Megan's artwork will be displayed at Neill Walsh Jewelers.

Monthly Contest

Want to win free admission to the Strawberry Fest? Here's your chance! To enter, simply send an e-mail to tigertopics@ewpto.com with "Strawberries" in the subject line by Friday, May 25. A winner will be chosen at random from among the entries. Thanks and good luck!

Congratulations to Janet Vasel, our April Tiger Topics winner, who won a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

Strawberry Fest Update

Planning for the 2012 Strawberry Fest is in full swing! As a reminder, the Strawberry Fest will take place at Emerson-Williams on Saturday, June 9 from 10-2, rain or shine (but let's hope for shine!).

One new thing this year - a photo booth! Want a great way to commemorate a great year at E-W? Get in the photo booth with some friends and get some fun shots taken. We are also building a new game featuring some very popular flying feathered friends. We have secured our teacher "dunkees" for our dunk tank, thanks to Mr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Cookson, Mrs. Nunn, Mr. Coursey and Mr. Bubser.

Now is when we need your help. Go online to www.mysignup.com/strawberryfest and volunteer to spend 30 minutes or an hour helping run our event. There are many options to choose from - pick something that suits you at a time that is convenient for you.

Also, anyone willing to bake for the cake walk, please bring your donation(s) to the school office on Friday, June 8.

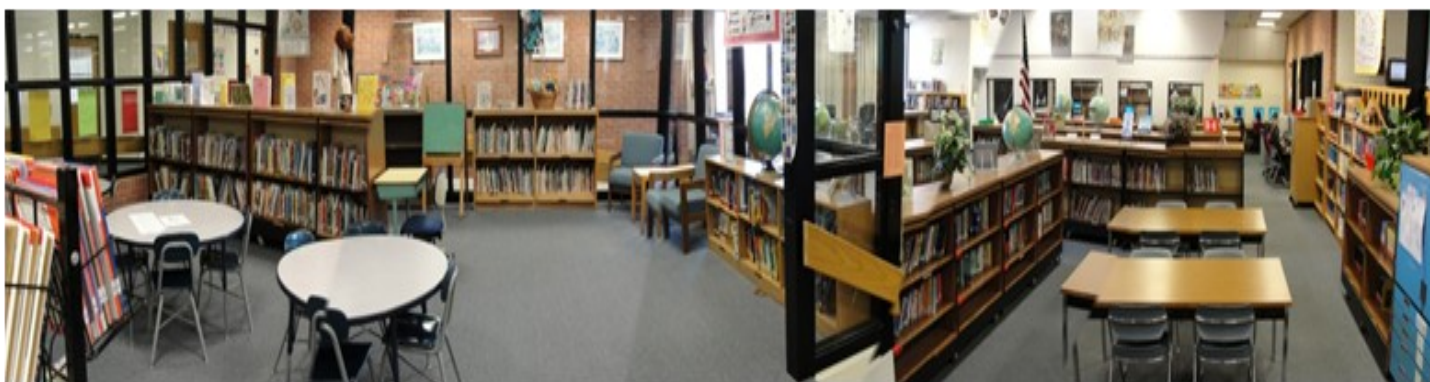
Thanks for your help!



Who Wants a Popsicle Party?

Competition to win a Popsicle Party has begun! Bring your Labels for Education and Box Tops to your/your child's classroom between now and May 25th and place them in the designated box in the classroom. Two classes will win a Popsicle Party - the one that collects the most Box Tops and the one that collects the most Labels for Education. The winning classrooms and party dates will be announced the first week of June!





News from the Media Center



2012 FundingFactory Recycling Rumble is Here and Our School Could Win an Apple iPad and 25% in Fundraising Bonus

[Emerson-Williams School](#) is competing in FundingFactory's 2012 Recycling Rumble. Recycling Rumble gives our school the chance to earn more fundraising dollars by competing against—and out-recycling—[Wade Hampton High School](#).

Now thru May 31, you can help by dropping off used ink and laser cartridges, cell phones, GPS devices, iPods, MP3 players, and digital cameras at [Emerson-Williams School's recycling box located across from Mrs. Catarius' office](#). With each qualifying item our school sends to FundingFactory, we'll be one step closer to winning a 25% bonus and an Apple iPad! Not to mention, recycling bragging rights.

This is a great time to find out what your household and/or company does with used ink and laser cartridges and all the electronics you have replaced. If your company is not already recycling, now is the time to sign up.

A business supporter is any company committed to recycling used ink and toner cartridges and personal electronics to help [Emerson-Williams School](#) meet our fundraising goals. Becoming a business supporter is free. As a business supporter, simply collect your recyclables and leave them for me to pick up at your convenience. Or, drop them off at [Emerson-Williams School's recycling box](#). We earn the value of your recyclables as well as our own, and when we're competing for the recycling title, each and every cartridge and small electronic counts!

The 2012 Recycling Rumble ends May 31, so act fast! With you in our corner, our opponent doesn't stand a chance!

Thank you in advance for your ink cartridge and electronic/digital recycling efforts.

Doreen Corsair

Don't Forget To



www.facebook.com/ewpto

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 our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.



Thanks to the First & Last Tavern for their generous donation for the 6th grade Pasta Dinner.



939 Maple Avenue, Hartford
Tel: 860-956-6000
Fax: 860-956-9783
www.firstandlasttavern.com

HOURS:

Sun., noon - 9pm; Mon. - Wed., 11:30am - 9pm;
Thurs., 11:30am - 9:30pm; Fri., 11:30am - 10:30pm;
Sat., noon - 10:30pm

SUMMER HOURS:

Memorial Day - Labor Day; Sun's only open at 4:30pm



Fun was had by all at the Rock Cats game!



Respect, Responsibility, and Safety

As we begin to look ahead to the next school year at Emerson-Williams, we reflect upon the things that have gone well this year as well as the things we hope to improve upon in the upcoming year. One area we have spent time thinking about is our school rules and behavior expectations for students. As a school psychologist and a member of our school's Safe School Climate Committee, this is an area of our curriculum and our students' development that is very important to me.

In order to create a positive school climate and help our students meet with success, we must explicitly teach them the skills needed to succeed and align our expectations with the values that we wish to instill. To that end, we are going to have just three school behavior expectations for all students. These are: **Respect, Responsibility, and Safety**. Any specific behavior or rule will be aligned with these expectations and categorized under one of these three general principles.

From now until the end of the school year, we would like our students to focus on the value of **Responsibility**. As Spring fever hits, it is more important than ever to help students maintain a sense of responsibility and be accountable for their actions. We recognize that making a poor choice from time to time is part of the learning process and we wish to help students use those poor choices as opportunities to learn and grow. We want to help all students develop the ability to accept responsibility for their choices and to be honest with themselves and others. We also strive to help students develop and apply critical thinking skills in order to better anticipate the consequences of their actions and ultimately, to make good choices on their own.

To encourage development of this sense of personal responsibility, we are teaching students to reflect on their behavior. We can do this by guiding them to ask themselves questions such as: What was my role in this situation? What did I do well? What could I do differently next time? Is there anything I could do now to improve the situation? You can help us in this goal by encouraging your children to use critical thinking skills at home to reflect on their actions. You can also help us by supporting any positive reinforcement and/or the consequences your child may receive at school. As we form a strong partnership in this goal of teaching personal responsibility and accountability, we can help all students develop into caring, respectful, and responsible citizens!

Submitted by Emily Pifferi, School Psychologist Emerson-Williams School

Talent Show DVD Update

The DVD from the 2012 Talent Show is almost finished and will be delivered in the coming weeks! If you are interested in purchasing a DVD of the 2012 Emerson-Williams Talent Show, please complete the information below and return it with \$8.00 (cash or check payable to EWPTO) in an envelope marked "Talent Show DVD". Questions? Contact Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com. Thanks!

Student's Name: _____

Phone Number or E-Mail: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Don't Forget!!!

**3rd Annual Golf Tournament
to benefit the E-W Playscape Fund**

**July 28, 2012
Blue Fox Run**

www.ewptogolf.com



A Few Final Notes of Thanks ...

Thanks to Angela Tollis and Martin Malicki for coordinating the weeklong Teacher Appreciation events. Thanks also to all the families who participated!

Thank you to Jackie LaPerriere and her team for bringing us a week of fun events for TV Turn Off week!

Thanks to Paula Heinzmann for arranging Emerson-Williams Day at the New Britain Rock Cats game on May 6.

Thanks to Darka Jara and all the Jog-a-Thon volunteers for helping out on May 11.

Thanks to Brownie Troop #10283 for their help sprucing up the grounds of the school and planting some beautiful flowers.

THANKS!

Emerson-Williams PTO Playscape Committee
presents...

Evening At

**Yogurt
MADNESS**

When: May 31, 2012
Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm
Where: Yogurt Madness
2997A Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

(located in the same parking lot as Chili's off the Berlin Turnpike)

If you haven't been to Yogurt Madness in Newington, you are truly missing out on a new hot spot for some yogurt with "fixings". With daily flavor changes, and a load of different "toppings", you are certain to get the right mixture of good tasting, healthy yogurt! It's simply MAD!

Check them out on Facebook for their latest flavors!!!

COME JOIN US ON THURSDAY, MAY 31ST!!!

****20% of the proceeds during the event hours will be donated by Yogurt Madness to benefit the Emerson-Williams Playground Fund****

Wethersfield Soccer Fall Recreational and Travel Soccer Sign-Ups



The **Wethersfield George D. Ritchie Soccer Club (WGDRSC)** is pleased to announce that registration for the Fall 2012 soccer season will be held online during April and May of 2012. Players in Pre-K - 8th grades are eligible to play in our recreational soccer programs and players in grades 2 - 8 who are born between 8/1/98 - 7/31/05 are eligible to play in our travel program. All players **MUST** register for Fall soccer by May 31st. Registrations after May 15th will be subject to a late fee so register early. Please visit WethersfieldSoccer.org for more information about our programs, program directors contact information, or to register your kids to play soccer this Fall in Wethersfield!!



KEY FALL REGISTRATION DATES ALL SOCCER PROGRAMS:

- **04/01/2012:** Online Registration Begins (Late after In-Person Registration on May 15th)
- **05/15/2012:** In-Person Registration (Pitkin Community Center) - No Paper forms accepted this year ... please register online and you can pay by check this night only!!
- **05/16/2012:** Late Registration Begins (Online Only and Late Fees Apply)
- **05/31/2012:** Registration Ends (**NO EXCEPTIONS so please do not delay!!**)
- **JUNE 4th-15th:** Travel Soccer Tryouts - All players interested in playing travel soccer in Wethersfield for 2012-2013 **MUST** try out (no registrations or payments at the gate, so register online during April or May)



Travel or Rec Soccer???: <http://programs.WethersfieldSoccer.com> – Which program is right for your child?
 Register for Fall Soccer: <http://register.WethersfieldSoccer.com> – Click here to register for Fall Soccer.

If you would like additional information about an individual soccer program but you were unable to find it on WethersfieldSoccer.org, then please use the table below to contact the program director directly.

SOCCER PROGRAM	PROGRAM QUOTAS & INFO	REC SOCCER DIVISION DIRECTOR CONTACT INFO
Pre-K Rec Soccer:	Minimum of 50 players (Max of 80) with a waitlist	Darren Hobbs PreKSoccer@WethersfieldSoccer.org
Mini-Kickers Rec: (Grades K-1 in Fall)	192 players with a max of 24 waitlisted players	John Breton jbreton@WethersfieldSoccer.org
Beginners Boys Rec: (Grades 2-3 in Fall)	80 players with a waitlist	Michelle Romagnoli mromagnoli@WethersfieldSoccer.org
Beginners Girls Rec: (Grades 2-3 in Fall)	80 players with a waitlist	Lora Klementon lklementon@WethersfieldSoccer.org
Juniors Rec (Boys and Girls): (Grades 4-5 in Fall)	No quotas	Joe Slepski jslepski@WethersfieldSoccer.org
Seniors Rec (Boys and Girls): (Grades 6-8 in Fall)	No quotas	Joe Slepski jslepski@WethersfieldSoccer.org
Travel (Competitive): (Grades 2-8 in Fall)	No quotas - Tryouts June 4th - 15th, 2012 Restrictions for non-Wethersfield residents apply	Scott Marshall smarshall@WethersfieldSoccer.org

Helping Wethersfield's Kids Achieve GOALS!!

Please visit our website for more information about all of our programs and registrations:

WethersfieldSoccer.org



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

Canton

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We Will Make You SMILE!

www.RosenbergOrtho.com