

## Tiger Topics Newsletter, November 2016

### Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

**PTO Board:** July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Co-President:** Darka Jara, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President:** Colleen Mattatall, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent

**Secretary:** James Langdo, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent

**Treasurer:** Peping Dee, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent



### Upcoming Events

**November 30**

John Steven Gurney, Illustrator  
Student Assembly

**December 1**

Holiday Store

**December 2**

Teacher/Staff Holiday  
Luncheon

**December 9**

Vendor Night

**December 15**

Winter Concert

**December 23**

Hat Day & Minimum School  
Day – 12:55 p.m. Dismissal

**December 26 – January 2**

Holiday Recess – No School

### From the Desk of the EW PTO Co-Presidents

Dear Emerson Williams Community,

It's already November, a time to be thankful! Let's thank all our parents/guardians and staff for all that we do for our children. You all are truly a blessing to Emerson-Williams! We could never do all of this without your support.

Please note that our December 8, PTO meeting is canceled due to holiday festivities. Some upcoming events to mark on your calendar are: our annual Holiday Store on Thursday, December 1 and Vendor Night on Friday, December 9. We hope to see you at both of these awesome events! Also, EW Apparel purchases will arrive in early December.

Since the school year has started it has been very productive and hopefully this enthusiasm will carry into the New Year. Let us look forward to an exciting and magnificent year. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Holiday season with a warm Happy New Year 2017. See you at our upcoming events and at the next PTO meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

Best Wishes,

Darka Jara, 2yrpres@ewpto.com

Colleen Mattatall, 1yrpres@ewpto.com

Co-Presidents, EW PTO

### Emerson-Williams Elementary School

461 Wells Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Main Office (860) 571-8360

**Principal:** Neela Thakur

**Main Office:** Mary Lacy and  
Maria Intino

[www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com), Webmaster: Chrissy Pikos  
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Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

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Editor: Leslie Williams

## From the Desk of Ms. Neela Thakur, Principal

Career Day was a Huge Success!

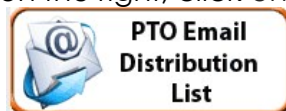
On Friday, October 28, our Emerson-Williams fifth and sixth graders participated in Career Day! Instead of their usual schedule of classes, they travelled around the building to hear from 13 out of the 18 Career Presenters listed below! I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to all of the Emerson-Williams parents/family members/ friends for making this happen and for spending the day with our oldest EW students. We felt so lucky to have you come and speak with our students. The goal of Career Day was to expose students to multiple careers; help them understand how the skills they are learning in Grades five and six are SO valuable to their possible future careers; and to emphasize that with the Growth Mindset, ANYTHING is possible. If you are a parent of a fifth or sixth grader, please take some quality time to speak with your child about the careers they were exposed to on Career Day, and which ones interested them the most. Remind them - over and over again - that hard work and effort in school will eventually widen their opportunities to have very cool careers as adults. We want your children to have so many cool opportunities when they are older. That process of creating awesome opportunities definitely starts now. Here is the list of careers students were taught about on Career Day: Sikorsky Aircraft Worker, Engineer, Accountant/Finance, School Social Worker, Yale Researcher, Retired Helicopter Pilot, Controller, Dance Teacher, Police Officer, Detective, Teacher, Zoo Keeper, Firefighter, Vertebrate Zoologist, Former Movie Set Designer, School Psychologist, ESPN Employee, Physicist, and a Drug Therapy Researcher. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!

## School Mission

At Emerson-Williams Elementary School, we strongly believe in the joy of learning. Ours is a caring, compassionate environment that respects and supports the dignity of the whole child. We work hand-in-hand with families and the community to develop lifelong learners and contributing members of our changing society.

## Keep In Touch!

We want to stay in touch with you. Please be sure to Like AND Follow us on Facebook at Emerson-Williams Elementary PTO. Also, please provide your email address to receive EW PTO emails by going to [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) and on the right, click on



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## EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

*A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks  
going out to:*

**Nicole Bochovan and Dylan, Tina Palazzo and Angelina, Johnna Kulpa, Caroline and her friend, Audrey Mainville and Rachael, Nathalie Trevitazzo, Chrissy Pikos, Jon Williams and his daughters, James Langdo and Brandon, Autumn & Jeff Struk and their sons, and all the school staff** that helped with set up, concessions, and/or clean-up for the October EW Movie Night. You helped so much and we are grateful!

**Every parent/guardian, teacher/staff, and volunteers** for organizing an awesome Career Day for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

**Kristen Healy** for organizing a wonderful Lyman Orchard Pie fundraiser to benefit 6<sup>th</sup> grade activities. We hope they'll all be enjoyed during the upcoming holidays. Thank you to all that supported our 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Erin Nock** for organizing a terrific Poinsettia, Wreath, and Kissing Ball fundraiser to benefit 6<sup>th</sup> grade activities. The pick-up date is Friday, December 2. Thank you to all that supported our 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Toni V.**, an EW sibling, for always volunteering her time to provide childcare at monthly EWPTO meetings. The kids have so much fun with her! She is a great artist too!

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## Tiger Topics Health Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



Dear Parents and Children,

Thank you to all of the parents who donated clothes to the health office. I am in need of some additional clothes especially sizes 12-18 girls and boys track pants or sweat pants. If you are able to donate any of these items, please Email me at [lciarcia@wetherfield.me](mailto:lciarcia@wetherfield.me). Your donations are greatly appreciated.

### REMINDER to all sixth grade students:

All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to **JUNE 1, 2017**. **Students will not be allowed to enter seventh grade in the fall if this information has not been submitted.** If you need the blue State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment form, I will be happy to send you one. Thanks to all those students who have turned in their physicals already!!

### The immunization requirements are:

- **2nd Varicella vaccine [chicken pox]**
- **2nd Measles, Mumps and Rubella [MMR]**
- **Adolescent Tdap vaccine [Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis]**
- **Meningococcal vaccine**

Please checks with the pediatrician to make sure these are updated.

**CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND!** There are lots of boy and girl sweatshirts. It would be helpful to put your child's name or initials in the jackets and lunchboxes. I try to return them to the kids if their name or initials are there.



## EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

*A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to:*

**All of the 2nd Grade Families** for their efforts for the November Teacher/Staff Luncheon! It was a fantastic turnout and the teachers/staff loved it! The **2nd grade Room Parents** did a fantastic job organizing this event. The next Teacher's Luncheon is on Friday, December 2nd and will be provided by ALL grade levels and coordinated by all Room Parents!

**The Emerson-Williams Leadership Team** for a successful start to this year's all-student reading club. On October 27, all our EW Tigers participated in Jumpstart's Read For The Record by all reading "The Bear Ate Your Sandwich" by Julia Barcone-Roach. Emerson-Williams students were a part of a total of 2,352,648 children around the world reading the same book, on the same day. What a great start to this awesome reading club! And best of all, EW PTO was able to provide all the books for the reading club based on our annual Scholastic Book Fair participation. Thank you to **Nathalie Trevitazzo** for suggesting we purchase the books this way and **Darka Jara** for ordering them with our Scholastic points. **Thank you to all the parents/guardians that support the Scholastic book fair each year!**

## Tiger Topics – Monthly Spotlight Article



### When I Grow Up, I Want to Be A...

By: 5th graders Jude Exantus and Sindy Hima

Some fifth and sixth graders know what they want to be when they grow up. But others are keeping their options open. Career Day gave us kids at Emerson-Williams an opportunity to see and hear about many different career options out there. Each professional discussed their background leading up to their career, the equipment they use, and what they do. We'd like to shine a spotlight on a couple of presenters for you.

#### ESPN Employee

Mr. Copland, Ms. Foley's new husband, is an ESPN Employee in Bristol. Mr. Copland and his co-workers get paid to watch sports games and they're the ones who fix anything that goes wrong on their channel. They organize all the commercials that will air on their channel. We learned that he was inspired by his father. What we found interesting about Mr. Copland during the presentation is that he gets paid to do what he enjoys, watching sports!



#### Senior Zoo Keeper

Ms. Caravella, in other words, Ms. Caravella's (Band and Orchestra Teacher at Emerson-Williams) younger sister, is a Senior Zookeeper at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo in Fairmont, Maryland. Something that we students found interesting is that she has pet the lions many times before. Something else that we learned from her presentation is that she was inspired to be a Zookeeper at the age of six when she went to the zoo with her family.



It's not everyday that fifth and sixth graders get to talk to a helicopter builder or helicopter pilot. We don't meet a firefighter, a pharmaceutical scientist, a detective, a police officer, a Yale Researcher, and a Vertebrate Zoologist in our regular school routine. But, on Career Day, we got to speak to all of them and more! This was a very full day of dreaming of the many career possibilities for us to work toward.

A special thank you to Ms. Thakur for putting this day together and another special thank you to all 18 presenters for their incredible presentations!

## Coming Soon...

### The Book Quote Project

The EW Leadership Team is pioneering a new project- Coming SOON!! The Book Quote Project! Children can submit a favorite or meaningful or silly quote from a book they are reading. Once a week a favorite book quote will be chosen to be read during morning announcements, but all submissions will be displayed. Children of all ages can submit their book quotes to the Book Quote Mailbox (coming soon!). The EW Leadership Team is looking for volunteers to help create a beautiful exciting display for this project and collect and post the book quotes. If interested please reach out to Ms. McLaughlin at [bmcloughlin@wethersfield.me](mailto:bmcloughlin@wethersfield.me)

## PTO Emails

Please add the EW PTO to your contacts list and keep in touch:  
2nd Year Co-President – [2yrpres@ewpto.com](mailto:2yrpres@ewpto.com)  
1st Year Co-President – [1yrpres@ewpto.com](mailto:1yrpres@ewpto.com)  
Treasurer – [treasurer@ewpto.com](mailto:treasurer@ewpto.com)  
Secretary – [secretary@ewpto.com](mailto:secretary@ewpto.com)  
Webmaster – [webmaster@ewpto.com](mailto:webmaster@ewpto.com)  
Tiger Topics Newsletter – [figertopics@ewpto.com](mailto:figertopics@ewpto.com)  
Do you have a PTO suggestion? – [suggestionbox@ewpto.com](mailto:suggestionbox@ewpto.com)

## Volunteer Needed

### Wethersfield Schools Parent Council (WSPC)

The WSPC is like a town-wide PTO. EW PTO is looking for one or more volunteers to attend a monthly WSPC meeting and report at PTO meetings what the WSPC is doing. The next meeting is Thursday, January 12 at 12:00 p.m. at the Stillman Building. If you are interested, please sign up for the WSPC committee at [ewpto.com/committees.html](http://ewpto.com/committees.html). For more information, please visit the web site at [www.wspc-ct.org](http://www.wspc-ct.org) or email [wspc.contact@gmail.com](mailto:wspc.contact@gmail.com).



## Box Tops For Education

Many thanks to our Committee Co-Chairpersons, Christen Sousa and Beth Gilbert, for a successful Box Tops for Education collection. EW PTO collected 4,454 Box Tops and at \$0.10 each, that's over \$445 earned. Thank you to all the students, parents/guardians, and volunteers who donated, cut on the dotted line, and helped to ship and redeem those Box Tops. The classroom that collected the most Box Tops earned an extra recess! And the winner was... Ms. Foley's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class. Congratulations! Great Job!



## 2016-2017 EW PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00 p.m.

EW Upper Media Center

~~December 8~~ (Canceled)

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 20

May 11

June 8

## Shop & Support EW PTO

### Amazon Smile

A simple and automatic way to support EW PTO every time you shop, at no cost to you. They have the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Please consider choosing EW PTO and shop AmazonSmile.

### Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards

A great fundraising program run through our local Stop & Shop! Use your registered Stop & Shop Card each time you shop at Stop & Shop, and you will earn CASH for our school.

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## Student Assembly with John Steven Gurney – November 30

John Steven Gurney, Illustrator of A-Z Mysteries and the Author/Illustrator of Fuzzy Baseball and Dinosaur Train, will be at Emerson-Williams on November 30. Mr. Gurney says, "The main focus of my presentation is the thought process involved in the creation of an illustration. I discuss my background and my creative process as an author and illustrator. I touch briefly on the business of publishing. My PowerPoint presentation focuses on my own creative process specifically, and generally on what makes any illustration an effective device for telling a story (it should be noted that because of the nature of my work, many of the slides are quite funny -but don't tell the kids that, let it be a surprise), I demonstrate with volunteers from the audience how people pose as models for my illustrations. In closing I draw some cartoons for the audience." For more information on John Steven Gurney, visit him at <http://www.johnstevengurney.com/index.html>.

## Holiday Store – December 1

The annual Emerson-Williams PTO Holiday Store is scheduled for **Thursday, December 1, 2016 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** in the Emerson-Williams Gym. The Holiday Store is a fun way for kids to shop for their friends and families. Pizza and snacks can be purchased in the cafeteria while parents/guardians wait for their EW Tiger shoppers.



**ALL ITEMS ARE \$2.00.**  
**A MAXIMUM OF 10 ITEMS CAN BE PURCHASED.**  
**PLEASE SEND YOUR CHILD WITH NO MORE THAN \$20.00.**



Grades K – 4, please fill out the gift tags provided and include them in the envelope provided. Grades 5 – 6, gift tags will be available the night of the Holiday store for you to fill out.

## Holiday Store Donations Needed

Donations of **Holiday Gift Bags and Tissue** are needed to help make this event a success. A box will be available in the front hallway of Emerson-Williams for donations.

## Holiday Store Volunteers Needed

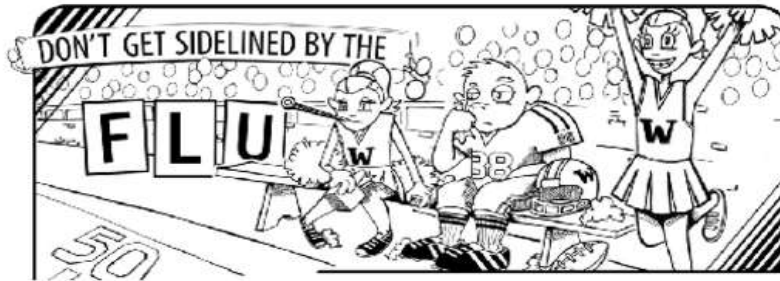
If you are interested in volunteering to help at Holiday Store, please go to [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) and click on the Calendar/Events section, then click on Holiday Store. The Sign-Up Genius is there to volunteer for set up, door people, cashier, gift wrapper, table people, and clean up. Thank you to everyone that donates their time for this wonderful holiday event.

## Vendor Night – December 9

Shop til you drop! Support your local crafters and vendors at our annual Vendor Night! Scheduled for **Friday, Dec 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at Emerson-Williams.

Do you own a local business and would like to be part of this exciting event? The cost for an approximate 10x10 space is \$25. Corner spots are available (but limited) for an additional fee and are first come first serve. All proceeds generated will benefit the EW PTO general fund.

For more information or to receive an application, please contact Rebecca at [vendor.night@ewpto.com](mailto:vendor.night@ewpto.com). This event is rain or shine.



## TIPS FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE: HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD HEALTHY AND FLU-FREE

With flu season upon us, it is important that we work together to keep our children healthy. Viruses spread easily among children in schools, and families with school-age children have more infections than others, with an average of one-third of these family members infected each year. By keeping our children flu-free, we benefit the community as a whole. You can help prevent the spread of flu or help your child get better if he/she does get sick by following a few simple steps:

- If possible, you and your child should get a flu shot
- Remind your child to cover his/her nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue immediately
- Have your child wash his/her hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and shared items at least once a day
- Ensure that bathrooms are stocked with soap, hand towels and tissues
- Teach your child not to touch his/her mouth, nose and eyes
- If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others

If you are concerned about your child's flu symptoms, call your doctor early. Call your doctor immediately if your child has a chronic disease. Common symptoms of flu include high fever, severe headache, muscle and body aches, exhaustion, and dry cough. Additionally, children often exhibit other flu symptoms that are rare in adults, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some children might benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a physician and can help lessen duration of the virus and reduce the risk of complications, such as pneumonia. To be effective, antiviral medication should be taken within 12-48 hours after flu symptoms begin.

Additionally, as a preventive measure, antiviral medication may be administered to children under a doctor's care to help them avoid catching the flu from others in some special situations. For example:

- Children who have egg allergies and therefore cannot receive flu vaccine
- Children who have been vaccinated, but are at such high risk for serious complications due to a chronic condition, that extra protection is warranted
- Children who may not have received a vaccine but are exposed to flu

If you have any questions or would like additional information about preventing and treating the flu, please contact the school nurse, Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN at 860-563-9638 opt. 3.

## The Signature Project – November 18

Patrick Dunning's student assemblies of The Signature Project on November 18 were a HUGE SUCCESS with teachers, staff, and students! Thank you to Leslie Williams and Colleen Mattatall, of the Assembly Committee, for vetting assemblies and bringing them to Emerson-Williams. Here are some quotes from those that attended.

It was an AMAZING assembly. The kids loved it and so did the staff. Patrick had an unbelievable connection with the children, from K to 6th grade. They were mesmerized by the presentation and all its parts: art, math, music and science as well as the different presentation mediums: sound, video, interactive video, and painting. It was magical. Afterwards, I was talking to Mrs. Forrest's 3rd grade class and they couldn't believe that he had worked on the project for 24 years and it still wasn't done. You knew they were awestruck. Then, at the end when Patrick asked the teachers to sign his painting, we were all very honored by his generosity. The PTO outdid themselves with this one! Thank you for funding such a memorable event. [EW Teacher]

I went to both assemblies and can tell you it was one of the best shows I have ever seen! Patrick had EVERY Tiger K – 6 and staff completely mesmerized from start to finish. I have never seen such a thoughtful, amazing and deep project involving art, music, science, math and language (literally, we even covered morse code!). On top of this, Patrick was able to present something so complex to all of us in a kindergarten-adult friendly way! He allows for comments from his web page and encouraged the kids (or adults) to write to him at <http://www.signatureproject.com/Comments/>. You guys [EWPTO] did an amazing job (as always!) So impressed! [EW Teacher]

I am honored and excited to be part of this world wide project. Patrick Dunning's thought provoking talent that weaves the most important things about his life with the important things in my life now through my signature. His creativity has inspired to me to rethink that the arts are not what they seem to be. It can be much more! Thank you PTO for this creatively elite program with depth of thought and messages to our students and staff. [EW Teacher]

This was a high quality presentation that allowed all students and staff to be engaged (even if there wasn't full understanding of a concept). [EW Staff Member]

I loved the cool sound effects which helped me to understand his ideas. The heart on the screen and heart beat thumping was his heart and love. The motorcycle sounds from the painting made me feel as if I was on that motorcycle. [6<sup>th</sup> Grader]

All the hidden messages that were in the painting was awesome. Usually, there are not such cool things hidden. – [5<sup>th</sup> Grader]

The mixture of science, math, art, music and a bit of magic was the best. [3<sup>rd</sup> Grader]

I liked seeing how the painting is going to happen. It broke up and back together. [1<sup>st</sup> Grader]

If you would like to learn more about The Signature Project, talk to your EW Tigers or go to [www.signatureproject.com](http://www.signatureproject.com) for more information.