

2010-2011 PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

November 18
December 9
January 13
February 10
March 10
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

NOVEMBER 2010

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

The fall was filled with many activities and events. On October 22nd, the PTO sponsored a Fall Festival. Much appreciation goes to Kelly Weinberg, chair of this event, and to the parent and student volunteers who helped out that evening. Many students attended, and they enjoyed a fun filled evening.

On October 26th, the Hartford Symphony String Quartet performed at Emerson-Williams School for students in grades 3 and 4. The students were entranced by their performance and the musicians were impressed with our students' musical knowledge. Mrs. Miga, strings teacher and Ms Fox, choral music teacher, were responsible for arranging this wonderful program.

On October 29th, the Kindergarten students had their traditional holiday

parade. Students and teachers lined the hall and the Kindergarten students dressed in their Halloween costumes walked through the halls. The staff, Kindergarten students and the other students all enjoy this yearly parade.

Finally, but equally important as our other autumnal events, Dr. Timothy McDowell, Interim Superintendent of Schools, will present the Superintendent's Awards on November, 16th, at 6:30 P.M. at Silas Deane Middle School. This year's recipients are as follows: Kady Allen and Ryan McNeil will receive the Superintendent's student recognition award, Michele Lavoie will receive the Superintendent's parent volunteer recognition award, and Mr. Efrain Rodriguez will receive the Superintendent's non-certified employee recognition award. Congratulations to all of the recipients!

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Can you believe the holidays are right around the corner?? The PTO elves have been very busy gathering treasures for the students to scoop up at the Holiday Store.

Our Annual Holiday Shopping Store for Emerson-Williams students will take place on Tuesday, November 30 from 5:00–7:30. Students will have the chance to do some holiday shopping for friends and family. Gifts are priced at \$2 each. Each student may purchase up to ten gifts.

Parents, for you we will have pizza, snacks and beverages for sale while you wait for your shoppers.

Before the Thanksgiving break, you will be receiving a flyer with all the details for the event. Attached to that flyer will be a cash envelope/shopping list and gift tags. Please have your student fill out the gift tags prior to the event and bring the tags and envelope with them to the Holiday Store.

In addition, we are seeking donations of small and medium holiday gift bags, as well as tissue paper. There is a donation box in the hallway near the office.

If you are available to help with this fun event, please contact Lauren Barbara at snl0617@cox.net. See you then!

PTO Highlights

As we enter this busy Thanksgiving and holiday season, we wanted to take a moment to give thanks. We are grateful for our talented teachers and staff who devote countless hours for the education of our children. We are also grateful for the volunteers who take time away from their already busy lives to help us with PTO fundraisers and family activities. But we can't do it without you! Whether it is volunteering at a fundraiser or bringing your child to participate in a family event, we truly appreciate your involvement. If you haven't yet gotten involved, please consider joining the PTO. With many types of volunteer opportunities available, there is sure to be something that fits your interests. And many studies have shown that children with involved parents do better in school—so it's a win win!

We are excited about several of our upcoming events and hope that you are too.

On Tuesday, November 30, we will be having our student Holiday Store. In order to make the process more efficient, we will be sending home blank

gift tags for your students to complete ahead of time. Please also return any unused gift tags so that we can reuse them next year.

On Friday, December 3, we will be holding our annual vendor night and craft fair. This event always proves to be a wonderful combination of craft vendors and representatives from home sales businesses. You will be sure to find something perfect for that "impossible to buy for" relative!

On another note, we would like to extend a warm welcome to new morning kindergarten teacher Taryn Dawson and new 6th grade teacher Hillary Borges. We are excited to have these talented individuals as part of our teaching staff. Thanks also to Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Malizia who have been teaching those classes until now.

Finally, thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with October events and fundraisers—you're the best!

Regards,

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

Mark Your Calendars!

11/17–11/19

Thursday, 11/18

Tuesday, 11/30

Friday, 12/3

Friday, 12/3

Monday, 12/6

Tuesday, 12/7

Monday, 12/13

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

PTO Meeting

Holiday Shopping Store for E-W Students

Winter Choral Concert:

9:30 am for last names A-M

1:15 pm for last names N-Z

Kindergarten parents may attend depending on child's class assignment

Holiday Vendor and Craft Fair

Winter Instrumental Concert (9:30 am)

Snow date for Winter Choral Concert

Snow date for Winter Instrumental Concert



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

We Need Your Help!

The Entertainment Book sale has concluded. If you have not yet done so, **PLEASE** return either payment of \$30 or your unused book. In order for this fundraiser to succeed, we need everyone's help accounting for all the books.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the sale!

Parent-Teacher Conference Child Care Available

The Emerson-Williams PTO will be providing supervision for Emerson-Williams students from 1:00 - 5:00pm in the Media Center on Wednesday, November 17, Thursday, November 18 and Friday, November 19. Your student may stay in the media center while you have your conference. Your student should plan to bring homework, a book or other quiet activity to do during that time. Please note that this service is for Emerson-Williams students only and does not apply to younger siblings not yet in school. There is no need to register for this service—just drop by the media center with your child before your conference.

If you have any questions about this service or are able to volunteer for an hour as one of our "supervisors" next week, please contact Andrea Ginter at 529-4939. Thanks!

Harvest Festival Update

The Harvest Festival returned in October with music, dancing, contests, games, refreshments, even donations to the community. It was attended by many creative, talented students full of energy enjoying each other's company as well as the many activities. It took the efforts of many volunteers to make this event so successful and I want to thank everyone for their time and dedication (as always, especially Mrs. Catarius for her support):

Ms. Nogueira, our new art teacher was able to coordinate her curriculum with the event and it resulted in many terrific pieces of art that were displayed in the cafeteria. Thank you to Ms. Nogueira, Lucy Liska, MaryJo Scandura and Michele Lavoie for hanging the artwork for us to enjoy.

Mrs. Corsair provided AV equipment so Michael Jackson-aka Michele Lavoie could lead the crowd in "Thriller" line dancing, accompanied by video on the big screen. While Russ Bosco and Taylor Buysse assisted with some technical difficulties fathers, Matt Zuerblis, Seth Heinzmann and Tommy McCarter kept the anxious crowd occupied by playing "Goblin, May I?" & Goblin Says.

Dan Carsten returned to paint

faces, which was very popular again and Michelle Bosco brought out old favorites, the Smencils that the kids went wild over. Thanks to everyone who provided cleaning supplies as they arrived and to Lucy, Natalie and Garrett Liska who delivered them to the Wethersfield Social Services. Many items were collected.

In the cafeteria, Kathy Zapor served coffee; Amber Kiniry served cider that she was able to get donated by Bob's Fruit Stand, popcorn she had Berlin Rave Cinema donate and cider donuts donated by Tim Hortons (thank you Jackie LaPerriere for getting the donuts). Student volunteers coordinated the estimation jar contest and pumpkin (donated by Fair Weather Acre Farm - thanks again Amber!) weight estimation contest.

Jennifer Madley played Musical Chairs while Erin Kallogjeri and Larissa Bashura mingled among the crowd observing costumes and deciding on winners for the Costume Contest. Holly Dyzak donated toilet paper and ran the Mummy Wrap that was a bit messy but everyone pitched in and the mess was cleaned up in no time at all - GOOD JOB and thanks to the clean up crew. Paul LaPerriere held the Scarecrow Contest and took many pictures as well as made a last minute run for additional face paints (you're a life saver!).

Last, but certainly not least, we couldn't have done it without our student volunteers, Taylor Buysse, Jason Elhachem, Mariah Gonzalez, Zachary Weinberg, Matt Zapor and Samantha Zapor who helped with everything from set-up and clean-up, to assisting with activities.

And the winners are...

- Scarecrow Contest - Naomi Schiff
- Hershey Kisses Estimation Jar - Haley Weinberg & Sabrina Berry
- Candy Corn Estimation Jar - Angela Sollima
- Pumpkin Weight Estimation - Jack Kulpa
- Mummy Wrap - ??
- Best Fairy Tale Costume - Emma Costello
- Most Unique Costume (old lady looking for her dog) - Christina B.
- Scariest Costume - Roberto Tordanato

Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated and definitely why it was a very successful evening and enjoyed by all who attended. Again, thanks to all who volunteered their time and hopefully I haven't forgotten anyone, because I'm truly thankful for all your help.

- Kelly Weinberg



Please Join Us

Karen DiBattista Lewis, our friend, neighbor, life-long resident of Wethersfield, graduate of Wethersfield High School - class of 1980, is battling Breast Cancer.



Karen is a single mother of two children and self-employed and co-owner of Shear Precision Salon on the Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield.

She is a respected and valued member of the community always willing to help everyone. She is an active member of the United Methodist Church, Team Mom for the Wethersfield Eagles Football "A" Team and volunteered to help the Children of Haiti after the Earthquake.

Karen is battling breast cancer and will be undergoing Chemotherapy and Radiation over the next several months.

In order to assist with her expenses during her treatment we are holding a fundraiser in her honor.

**Saturday, January 15th, 2010
6:00pm
Mount Carmel Hall
30 Olde Roberts Street
East Hartford, Connecticut**

**Full Buffet Dinner & Open Bar
DJ / Dancing
Tickets \$40 Adult/\$10 Children under 12**

***For tickets or information on how to help please contact
The Friends of Karen Lewis***

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|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Lori Shields | brian_shields@sbcglobal.net | or 860-257-4758 |
| Donna & Mike Lynch | BTBOB@comcast.net | or 860-680-6081 |
| Mary DiMatteo | marydimatteo@sbcglobal.net | or 860-529-0841 |
| Lona Barone | lonabarone@cox.net | or 860-558-2467 |
| Janet Vasel | ajavasel@cox.net | or 860-721-7090 |
| Connie DiGiacomo | cdigiacomo18@gmail.com | or 860-490-4491 |



Thank You.



You're Invited...

to attend a Focus Group especially for Wethersfield Parents

WHEN: Monday, December 6, 2010 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

WHERE: Wethersfield Public Library -Children's Program Room

SPONSORED BY: The Wethersfield Early Readiness Council

The Town of Wethersfield has received a grant from the William Caspar Graustein Foundation Memorial Fund to create a community plan for Wethersfield.

The Wethersfield Early Readiness Council is developing a plan to create a community-wide system in which all Wethersfield children, birth to 8 years are:

Safe, Healthy, Connected to Community, and Developmentally Successful Learners.

We are interested in your ideas and concerns about your child's education and development, and the community resources that are available to you. At the Parent Focus Group, you'll get the chance to help us learn how the Community of Wethersfield can best address your child's needs in those areas.

You are a key-decision maker in our community.
We need your input!

Please Join Us As We Create Our Community Together!

Please R.S.V.P to Mary Fulton @ 860-563-6375

A Few Notes of Thanks ...

Thanks to Kelly Weinberg and Lucy Liska for organizing and dropping off all the cleaning supplies collected during the Harvest Festival for Wethersfield Social Services. Thanks for all your donations, we are sure they will be very much appreciated.

Pumpkin Bread and spooky Halloween atmosphere brought the teachers into the right Halloween mood during Teachers Appreciation end of October. Alicia Schenkel, Katharina and Daniel Cacioli took care of creepy snacks.

Thanks to Mike Nargi for generously providing the tent used for the E-W booth at the Cornfest in September.



Comedy Night - Canceled

Unfortunately, Friday's Comedy Night has been canceled due to low ticket sales. Refunds will be given to all those who had purchased tickets. We hope to resume our comedy night tradition next year and we look forward to your participation.

Also, in an effort to plan a more successful event next year, we would like to hear from you as to why you didn't attend this year: Cost? Type of show? Date? Other reason? Please forward your feedback to Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com. Thanks!

Address Directories - Update and Corrections

By now you should have received your 2010-2011 address directory. If you would like an additional copy to keep at work or in a different part of the house, we have a limited quantity available for \$1 each. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Ginter.

Please make the following corrections to your directory:

Scott & Cindy Augustine's correct e-mail address is scottcindya@sbcglobal.net
George & Larissa Bashura's correct e-mail address is yankees2gordon24@gmail.com
Steve & Paula Byczko's correct e-mail address is paulabyczko@cox.net

Listings to add to your directory:

Colon, Elias	3 - Emily Krawciw	Gloria & Librado Colon	57 Concord Circle (860)508-6502 Glo2499@yahoo.com
Zadrozny, John	2 - James Shoemaker	John & Susan Zadrozny	350 Pine Lane (860)257-9777 sjzadrozny@att.net

Looking For ...

The Emerson-Williams staff is seeking the donation of a gently used refrigerator for the staff lounge to replace the existing one. If you have a refrigerator you would like to donate, please contact Mrs. Catarius. Thanks!

Upcoming Feature – Recipe Favorites!

In upcoming issues, we plan to include recipe favorites. To suggest a recipe for our monthly publication, please send the recipe (and a photo of the finished product if possible) to tigertopics@ewpto.com. In the event of multiple submissions, the winning recipe will be chosen at random. Thank you!

Student Recognition

Congratulations to Kady Allen, grade 6 and Jacob Kozlowski, grade 2. Their art work was chosen to represent Emerson-Williams School in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/ Wethersfield Public School Youth Art appreciation Program. Their artwork will be on display through November at the Stillman Building.

Health Quick Tips

Linda Ciarcia BSN, RN

DEAR PARENTS,

Thank you to all of the parents who washed and returned the borrowed clothing from the Health Office. We have had a very muddy October!! I am in need of some additional clothes especially sizes 12-18 of girls track pants or sweat pants. If you are able to donate any of these items, please e-mail me at lciarcia@wethersfield.k12.ct.us. 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, 2011**. ***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!!

Next year there will be new immunization requirements:

1. 2nd Varicella vaccine [chicken pox]
2. 2nd Measles, Mumps and Rubella [MMR]
3. Adolescent Tdap vaccine [Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis]

Please check 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.

Please read the following information on the subject of lice and visit the website I have provided.

WETHERSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Head Lice Information

Head lice are small parasitic insects that live mainly on the scalp and neck hairs of *people*, not pets or other animals. The egg of the louse is called a nit. Nits are laid by the adult female and are cemented to the base of the hair nearest the scalp usually less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch from the scalp. The eggs hatch and release baby lice. They are only the size of a pinhead. They mature in approximately one week. The adults grow to the size of a sesame seed and have six claws. Adults can live up to 30 days but must feed on the blood of humans to survive. Once off the head they die within 24 hours.

Just the Facts

1. Lice are not dangerous; they don't spread disease and are not a sign of uncleanliness.
2. Lice do not fly or jump; the only way they can get from one person to the other is **DIRECT** head to head contact.
3. The sharing of clothing, bedding, combs/brushes and hats/hair accessories may spread them.
4. Schools are not the most common place where head lice are spread. Sleep-overs among friends and relatives are thought to be a common way they are passed from home to home.
5. School-wide head checks are not recommended. The most effective screening occurs when parents check their own children and treat as described below.
6. Letters are not sent home routinely regarding cases at school.
7. The "gold" standard if infestation is the direct visualization of live bugs. Lice treatment should be considered.
8. If only nits or eggs are present, removing them with a special small toothed comb is time consuming but the most effective way to get rid of them. Do this every day until they are gone.
9. Never treat **anyone** "just in case". Head lice products are pesticides which are toxic if overused and can be absorbed through the skin. If you do need to use them **FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.**
10. Shaving or cutting the hair is not necessary although it may make nit removal easier. Let your child decide.
11. According to the National Assoc. of School Nurses, children found with live lice should be referred to parents for treatment. Data does not support school exclusion for nits.
12. One of the biggest challenges is getting parents to communicate the problem to other parents when they find head lice. This may prevent the passing back and forth of the problem.

As school nurses, we are your supportive advocate who can advise you about treatments and help you with checking and rechecking as you work to remove nits and lice from your child's head. We do not judge and we handle lice cases in a *confidential* manner. Please just ask.

Links to info are: headliceinfo.com, cdc.gov/lice/, hsph.harvard.edu/headlice

Get a Head Start on your Holiday Shopping!



Join us for the third Annual E-W PTO Holiday Vendor and Craft Fair
Emerson-Williams Elementary School
Friday, December 3, 2010
6:30 - 9 PM



Over 20 vendors and crafters will be on hand providing unique holiday gift ideas.
Refreshments will be served

If you have any questions, please contact Kat Zapor at 860-235-6298 or zapkat@cox.net