



From the Principal's Desk

Ms. Neela Thakur

On Friday, October 3, I hosted my first Principal's Breakfast for this school year. We had a slight glitch, but everything worked out ok. My guest presenter, Brenda McLaughlin (Reading and Language Arts Consultant) was unfortunately out sick. She had a great presentation planned for parents about Literacy at the elementary school level. However, everything still went very well. At the very last minute, I was able to have fourth grade teacher, Jenn Kardys, assist me with the presentation and, together, everything went well. We had 26 parents present. After discussing the various ways we work hard to promote literacy here at Emerson-Williams in grades K - 6, parents had a very unique opportunity to spend some time with Joanne Charbonneau's fifth grade class. They were able to observe her students work in small groups of 3 - 4 as they engaged in very high level conversations about their books. They were focused on what the author was "whispering" as the important message in the story. Parents present were impressed with how students were able to relate their books to other books they have read, as well as relate the books to their own lives. The students did an excellent job of being very active listeners as their classmates were speaking, and they asked each other great, probing questions. At the end of my Principal's Breakfast, I also gathered some quick, informal feedback from parents on post-it notes. I had them respond to the following three statements:

- Name one thing that either you or your child loves about Emerson-Williams.
- Name one thing that either you or your child thinks can be improved about Emerson-Williams.
- Name one topic that you would like to see covered at an upcoming Principal's Breakfast.

This was very helpful feedback for me and my staff. I want to thank Mrs. Darka Jara for being the parent in charge of the breakfast, as well as all of the other parents who contributed food, drinks, and helped with the set-up and clean-up. I really appreciate everybody's time and effort with this!

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Message from the Presidents....

Hello Emerson-Williams Families!

At our last PTO meeting, there were some suggestions related to the way information is communicated to our parents. We are continually striving to be as efficient and as real time as possible. Currently, we utilize email, our PTO website, and Facebook to communicate any late-breaking information that needs to be shared. Tiger Topics, as you know, is our other form of communication which usually recaps things. Since the PTO website provides a direct feed from our Facebook page, those who choose not to use Facebook will still be able to see the messages that are posted. In the upcoming months, we will continue to improve upon, as well as try and tweak how information is passed along via the electronic format.

- Thank those people who volunteered to help out with the Book Store. It was a very big success, as well as those people who participated in the Yankee Candle fundraiser, as that also HUGE success. Special thanks to Darka Jara for Chairing both events.
- The National Walk to School day, despite being postponed due to the threat of Thunderstorms in the morning, did go on the next day and once again was a good experience for those involved.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be going on next week from the 21st thru the 23rd.
- Holiday Store and Vendor Night is quickly approaching. The Holiday Store committee will be looking for wrapping paper donations. Please contact Janet Carbo or Karen Dicenso if you are willing to donate.

Finally, we are still looking for volunteers for some of our committees. The signup sheets this year are completely electronic and can be found on the website, www.ewpto.com under the General Info/Forms tab. If you have some time and are willing to help, please sign up.

Paul LaPerriere - 2nd Year Co-President
Nathalie Trevitazzo - 1st Year Co-President

*"If their not free to fall, then their not free at all
Pick them up, dust them off, and send them on down the road"*

2014-2015 PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00pm Upper Media Center

November 13 • December 11 • January 8 • February 12 • March 12

April 9 • May 14 • June 11

www.ewpto.com

Special Notices

Special Thanks: Thank you to the many families who contributed Labels For Education and Box Tops to EW's collections. We expect to receive a check in the amount of \$746.30 for Box Tops and 3600 points for Labels for Education. Great job! Keep them coming!

A special thank you to Claudia Miller, Kim Gott, Jennifer Ramsey, Mary Zabielski and Stephanie Conashevic who volunteered their time, along with Co-Chairs Sharon Koziol and Kristen Healy, clipping Labels and Box Tops for four hours to get them ready for the submission dates.

Thank you!
Sharon Koziol

Special Thanks: Once again the E-W PTO steps up to the plate and grants my wish for some mighty popular books at the book fair. I know I must sound like a broken record, but this PTO has always been generous and supportive of my efforts to put books in the hands of our children that they will **enjoy** reading (*no prodding or bribing necessary*). You do this every single year so I feel compelled to make the E-W community aware of how much I appreciate your donated time, money, support, and all-around good conversation.

May I offer a special "Thank you" to Darka Jara for all her hard work and assistance in pointing the way to the best buys for hard cover books during the book fair last week. She's our very own "Energizer Bunny"--she keeps going, and going, and going.....

I conclude with a heart-felt "thank you" to the PTO. You are truly the best PTO in the district. Yes, I said it--"THE BEST IN THE DISTRICT". Happy reading to you and your awesome, inquisitive, and often-times quite humorous children. They make every day a delight and a challenge worth facing.
- Doreen Corsair

Suggestion Box: The EWPTO website has now incorporated a suggestion box as well as an email address that parents can use EXCLUSIVELY to make suggestions about potential fundraisers or special events that they'd like their children to experience. We need NEW and fresh ideas of ways to raise funds for our programs as well as bring our families together for fun activities. Please take a moment and review the website or email us with your thoughts. We really appreciate it! Also, please bear in mind that this is made available for suggestions about NEW events and not to exchange ideas or recommend changes to existing fundraisers/activities. If you'd like to lend a hand with current events, please join us at our next PTO meeting! Thank you all so much.

<http://www.ewpto.com/suggestionbox.html>
SuggestionBox@ewpto.com

From the Music Department: Our instrumental music teacher, Ms. Emily Caravella, has developed a website for parents to use in order to get updates on their child's instrumental activities. To view the website, please go to www.emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com. Parents of children not currently in this music program can find information and are welcome to reach out to Ms. Caravella at any time.

From the Emerson-Williams School Nurse

Tiger Topics Health Tips

by Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

DEAR PARENTS and CHILDREN,
Welcome back to all!

REMINDER to all sixth grade parents/students:

All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to ***JUNE 1, 2015***. ***If you had a physical this summer, hand it in NOW. Students will not have their records transferred to the middle school if this is not complete.*** . If you need the State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment form, it can be found on the PTO website or I will be happy to send you one.

All children should be in school when they are well, but trying to decide if they are well enough can be a difficult task. We all know they can wake up feeling one way and an hour later feel another way. The goal is to have your child in school, ready to learn; but prevent the transmission of illness to classmates and staff.

In light of the most recent news about Enterovirus D68, the same guidelines should apply for any of the viruses we have experienced in the past. This virus is spread like others; by coughing, sneezing and saliva. Symptoms may include, fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough and body aches. Those susceptible of getting sicker, are those children with asthma or a history of wheezing.

These are the ways to prevent the spread of germs: GOOD HANDWASHING, AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS, DO NOT HUG, KISS OR SHARE FOOD WITH SOMEONE WHO IS SICK AND COUGHING AND SNEEZING INTO A KLEENEX OR OUR ELBOW.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

- A child with a temp of 100 degrees or greater should not be in school.
- Students should be free of fever ***for 24 hours***, without the aid of TYLENOL OR MOTRIN, before returning to school.
- If a child vomits; they must be free of symptoms for ***24 hours***, before returning to school.
- Students with excessive secretions from coughing, sneezing, or runny nose should be kept home to prevent the transmission of illness to others.
- Students diagnosed with Strep throat, by a throat culture, must be on antibiotics for ***24 hours*** before returning to school.
- For headaches, stomachaches, and sore throats, the decision to send your child to school should be based on your child's ability to focus on his/her class work and learn.

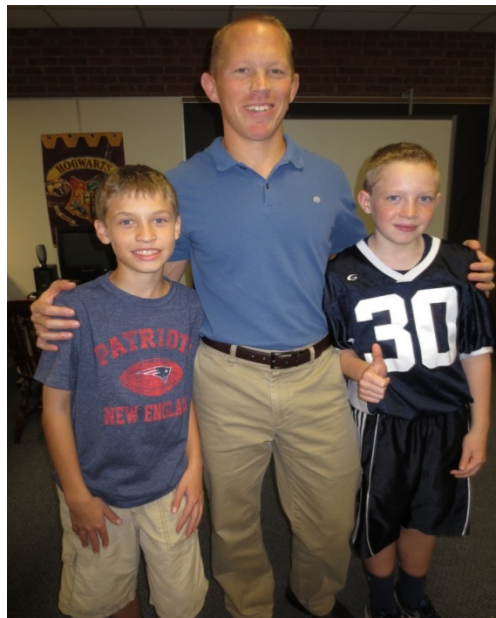
Thank you for keeping our school community healthy.

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

E-W Kids are Crazy for Rob Buyea!

The day is Friday, October 17, 2014, and the school is a-buzz with the day's event: "ROB BUYEA IS COMING TO VISIT US TODAY!" Truth be told, the school has been a-buzz about this favorite author's visit for over a month now. For those of you who have not lived on planet Earth for a few years, Mr. Buyea wrote "BECAUSE OF MR. TERUPT" ("Nutmeg Book Award winner in 2013) and "MR. TERUPT FALLS AGAIN". All of the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students, along with most of the adults at Emerson-Williams have read the first book and many have also read the second book. Personally, I have read both and eagerly await "SAVING MR. TERUPT" due out in July 2014 (what an addition to our summer reading). Yes, you heard right – Book #3 is due to be released this summer. Mr. Buyea let that cat out of the bag during his presentation. The waiting will send me over the edge for sure but those of you who know me, know that these books are very special to me and contain very endearing characters (even though there were some characters I wanted to scream at a few times) so the wait will be well-worthwhile.

I was lucky to be able to lunch with Mr. Buyea and Declan Hallinan, our 6th-grade student extraordinaire (which means Declan was the reason he came to Emerson-Williams in the first place), along with Mrs. Hallinan, Declan's grandmother, Ms. Thakur, Ms. Lacy, and Stephen Byzko. It all started toward the end of the school year last year when Declan wrote Mr. Buyea a letter of invitation. Mr. Buyea responded favorably and Declan's mom and our PTO took over from there. We are so lucky and appreciative. After we ate lunch and attacked Mr. Buyea with a plethora of questions (that he graciously answered by the way), there was a photo-shoot.



Stephen Byzko – Rob Buyea – Declan Hallinan

Although I would never presume to speak for any of our students or teachers, I believe I am safe in saying he was received with open arms and his presentation was thoroughly enjoyed. What a sense of humor with a slight "Peter-esque" undertone he possesses (you'll have to read the book(s) to know what I mean by "Peter-esque".) What a character and wonderfully in-touch-with-youth author!

Way to go Declan!

Mrs. Corsair

From the Music Department

2014 2015 MUSIC PERFORMANCES

November:

Monday the 10th [Day D] Veterans Thank You Assembly for invited guests
Grades 1, 3, 4, 6 - 9:30 AM
Grades K, 2, 5 - 1:30 PM

December

Tuesday the 2nd [Day A] School wide Winter Concert Rehearsal Assembly
Grades K to 6 9:30 [Dec 9 storm date]

Friday the 12th [Day A] Winter Concert

Grades K to 3 at 9:30AM

Grades 4 to 6 at 1:15 PM [Storm date for 9:30 and 1:15 **Dec. 19**]

Tuesday the 23rd [Day D] School Wide Assembly

January

TBD - FESTIVAL rehearsals start; date, times and locations TBD

February

TBD - 4th Grade Band and Orchestra Informances

March

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS Month

TBD - UA Principal's Breakfast

April

TBD - FESTIVAL performance [performances on 2 consecutive days]

Friday the 17th - 7:00PM Band, Orchestra and Chorus volunteers to
perform at WolfPack [Day B]

May

Thursday the 7th - School wide concert Assembly [Day D]

**Thursday the 21st - 7:00 PM Spring Concert: 5, 6 Chorus; Band,
Orchestra [Day B]**

June

Tuesday the 2nd - 4th Grade Music Across America Presentation [Day C]

Friday the 12th - School Wide Flag Day Assembly [Day A]

Dates and times subject to change

www.ewpto.com

Looking for information? Check www.ewpto.com for links to school and PTO forms, events, fundraisers, Tiger Topics, lunch menus and the digital backpack (online copies of the school-wide notices that come home with your child each week).

Please check us out and “LIKE US” on Facebook!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Holiday Store & Vendor Night – November 20th from 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education has helped America’s schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops also offers online ways to earn even more cash for Emerson-Williams.

Check out www.btfе.com for a list of participating products, as well as online earning opportunities.

Advice

from EW teachers to our students on how to have a successful school year:

Show up on time, and be prepared.

Play outdoors!

Keep a positive attitude.

Be kind to everyone.

Look for more advice in future issues of Tiger Topics!

Board of Education

You can find information about the Board of Education’s members, policies, minutes and schedule for upcoming meetings by visiting their website:

<http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=1643>

Target: Help Us Help Our School

There's an easy way to 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. It's great for you too! REDcard holders receive a 5% discount on purchases, and free shipping on Target.com orders. 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. Don't have a REDcard? Apply 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.

Donate Your Unused Coupons

Wethersfield High School student Joseph Sottile is collecting expired and unused manufacturers' coupons to donate to U.S. military families in other countries. Military commissaries overseas accept expired coupons. Last year Joseph received the Board of Education's CABE award and a Youth in Action award for this project. Please drop off your coupon circulars or clipped coupons in the donation box at school, or to Joseph Sottile, in the bin on the front porch at 131 Cider Brook Drive.

Holiday Store

The holidays are right around the corner and we need your help! The holiday store needs wrapping paper every year! Please take this opportunity to donate any unused wrapping paper from last holiday season. Thank you all for making this event such a success! We all appreciate it!

Holiday Store Co-Chairs:

Janet Carbo and Karen Dicenso



Attention United Way Donors!

If you donate to the United Way through your workplace, did you know that you can designate Emerson-Williams PTO as the beneficiary of your donation? If you have any questions or need help, please contact Paul LaPerriere for more information.



Volunteer

If you are interested in heading up one of our PTO committees OR simply want to join a committee to find a way to get involved, please contact Paul LaPerriere or Nathalie Trevitazzo as soon as possible. At the November PTO meeting, we will be assessing the committees that do not have chairs in order to determine if those activities/events will be eliminated. It's so important that we hear from you to make sure the events that your kids love continue to take place. Please go to www.ewpto.com and check out the committee list to see if anything matches your interests.

Babysitters Needed

Calling all E-W families that have High Schoolers: If your students need to pick up some community service time, we have an opportunity for them! Every month we need three babysitters for our PTO meetings. Responsibilities include monitoring school aged children during the meeting and ensuring that the classroom that is used gets left exactly as we found it! To get put on the schedule, please contact Paul LaPerriere at plaperriere.pto@gmail.com or 860-538-3698.

Labels for Education

Labels for Education allows our school to earn free merchandise such as athletic, art, music and academic equipment. Just clip and save Labels for Education bar codes from products you use every day, then drop them in the Labels for Education box outside the main office. Labels for Education products include Post, Pepperidge Farm, Campbell's, Dannon, Emerald, Pop Secret and Glad. Check out Labelsforeducation.com for a comprehensive list of participating products. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koziol (skoziol2011@hotmail.com or 860-529-3562).

Classified

Your advertisement here...

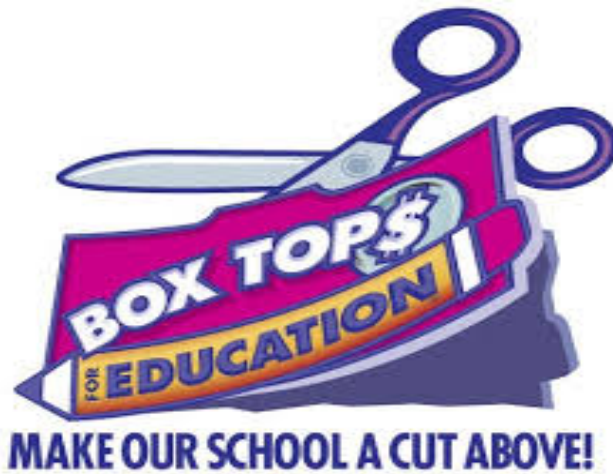
Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...

Your advertisement here...



Help Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops!

We all shop for groceries, sometimes two or three times a week - or more. Now turn those shopping trips into easy cash for our school, and encourage friends to do the same! Just look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products like Cheerios®, Hamburger Helper® and Kleenex®, in almost every aisle of the store. All you need to do is clip and send them to school with your child.

Each one is worth 10¢ for Emerson-Williams!

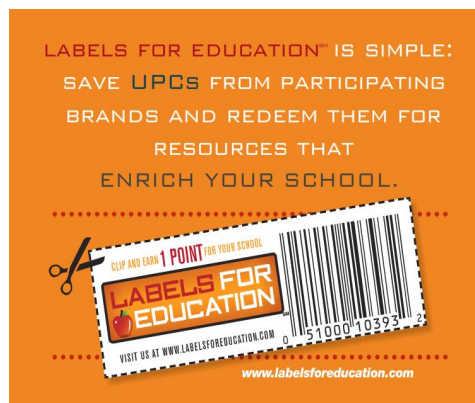
For more details about the Box Tops program, follow the link below.

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>





Clip Labels for Education from Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Pop Secret, People Magazine (purchased at newsstands), Emerald Nuts, Glad products, Post Cereals, Dannon Danimals, Dannoninos, and Bic products.



If you cannot find the logo, simply clip the UPC code.

Visit www.labelsforeducation.com for a list of participating products.

Wethersfield Public Library Events

Monday October 27, 2014 November 3, 10 & 17, 2014	11:00am: MOTHER GOOSE TIME: storytime for Birth-21 months Stimulating lapsit program. Includes sharing board books, nursery rhymes & bouncing games. Parent participation is key! Registration is required
Monday October 27th November 10, 17 & 24, 2014	6:00pm-7:30pm: Family Place PLAY & GROW: Parent-Child Workshops Each week, families can enjoy a stimulating, educational, and fun place to play & visit with resource professionals who will answer questions and provide information about a variety of parenting topics. Registration is required
Tuesday October 28th November 11, 18 & 25, 2014	10:30am – 12:00 noon: Family Place PLAY & GROW: Parent-Child Workshops Each week, families can enjoy a stimulating, educational, and fun place to play & visit with resource professionals who will answer questions and provide information about a variety of parenting topics. Registration is required
Tuesday October 21, 2014 November 18, 2014	6:30pm: PIZZA & PAGES: 4th - 6th graders Nutmeg Award Book Discussion Series with a light supper. September Title: Tuesdays at the Castle by Jessica Day George October Title: King of the Mound by Wes Tooke November Title: Walls Within Walls by Maureen Sherry Registration is required
Tuesday November 11, 2014	4:00pm: BOOK BASH!: 1st-3rd graders Party and celebrate great authors & series with fun activities. This month, My Weird School! Registration is required
Wednesday October 22 & 29, 2014 November 5, 12 & 19, 2014	10:30am: BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS: storytime for 3-5 year olds This program is designed to help develop pre-reading skills and to enjoy theme based stories, fingerplays, songs & games. Registration is required
Thursday October 23 & 30, 2014 November 6, 13, & 20, 2014	10:30am: WEE READ: storytime for 22-35 months Exciting program where toddlers begin to appreciate longer stories & participate in group activities. Parent participation is key! Registration is required
Thursday October 23, 2014 November 6, 13, & 20, 2014	6:00pm: READY, SET... READ, MATH, SCIENCE: 4-6 year olds Specially designed activities that make reading, math, or science come alive (topics alternate each week). Registration is required



EMERSON~WILLIAMS 2014-2015 PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please support the Emerson-Williams PTO by donating \$7.00 per child or \$10.00 per family. All parents and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly PTO meetings to share their thoughts and ideas. Many topics are discussed, including up-coming events and concerns. Becoming a member does not obligate you to attend monthly meetings, but you are always welcome to come listen and share your ideas.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Our Success cannot continue without your support!
Thank you for your anticipated support of our PTO!

Please return the form below to your child's teacher. Checks can be made payable to:

EMERSON~WILLIAMS PTO

Child(ren) Name (s)

Grade(s)

Teacher(s)

Parent/Guardian Name

Child \$7.00

Family \$10.00

Additional/Other
Donation _____