

Tiger Topics Newsletter, October 2016

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

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

2nd Year Co-President: Darka Jara, 5th Grade Parent

1st Year Co-President: Colleen Mattatall, 1st Grade Parent

Secretary: James Langdo, 1st Grade Parent

Treasurer: Peping Dee, 1st Grade Parent



Upcoming Events

October 27

Jumpstart's

Read For The Record

October 28

Career Day for Grades 5 and 6

November 8

Election Day – No School

November 10

PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.

November 22

Picture Retake Day

November 23

Half Day and Comfy Spirit Day:

Wear pajamas and/or slippers

November 24

Thanksgiving Recess – No School. We are thankful for Emerson-Williams!

From the Desk of the EW PTO Co-Presidents

Dear Emerson Williams Community,

October has given us time to catch our breath with accomplishments already made. Our fundraisers and family events have been rewarding and we thank you for supporting us! Our FREE family Movie Night was a huge success with over 125 students and parents watching Hotel Transylvania 2 while enjoying popcorn and water. We are excited to have a new Assembly Committee this year and EW PTO is sponsoring two fantastic assemblies in November for all grades: The Signature Project by Patrick Dunning, an artist exploring the human spirit through art, music, and technology, on November 18 and also John Steven Gurney, Illustrator of A-Z Mysteries and the Author/Illustrator of Fuzzy Baseball and Dinosaur Train, on November 30. We are looking forward to Vendor Fair and Holiday Store in the upcoming months (more details as they become available). Please come join us at the next PTO Meeting on Thursday, November 10 at 7 p.m. or come early at 6:30 p.m. for social half-hour. We enjoy getting to know our Emerson-Williams families!

Best Regards,

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

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 and on the right, click on



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.

Reminder

Emerson-Williams is making a **"Thank You Veterans"** video to celebrate Veterans Day! We need your help! We are looking for photos of our Emerson Tigers to include in the video!

- Photos of Emerson Tigers with their Veterans
- Photos of Emerson Tigers holding a "Thank you Veterans" sign they make!

Please send your photo to Emily Caravella at ecaravella@wethersfield.me or to Autumn Struk, EW PTO Member, at Autumn.Struk@gmail.com to be included in the video!

We ask that all photos be submitted by November 1st so they can be included in the video project.

EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to:

All of the Kindergarten families and Room Parents for contributing to an amazing October Luncheon for the teachers and staff! It was greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Grade 2 families and Room Parents will be planning the November Luncheon which is scheduled for Friday, 11/4!

Colleen Mattatall and Beth Gilbert for offering a new and interesting EW PTO Membership drive. We hope you are enjoying your EW car magnet, as well as the paper airplanes and origami!



EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to:

Jamie Rogalski for organizing a fantastic Dinner on the Lawn at EW with the Rents! Everyone had a blast and the Shish Kabob a'licious food truck was awesome!

Darka Jara for organizing a wonderful Yankee Candle fundraiser. Orders are in and Darka will be calling parents for pick up. Thank you to all that supported EW PTO.

Shana Smith, Diana Iannucci, and all our Parent volunteers for organizing a wonderful fall Picture Day. Everyone smiled brightly, hair touched up, and faces were clean.

Leslie Williams for organizing the EW Apparel Sale and to **Autumn Struk and Nathalie Trevitazzo** for displaying apparel samples at Dinner on the Lawn and during drop off/pick up at school.

Darka Jara and all the Parent and EW Teacher and Staff volunteers for making Walk To School Day such a great event! Lots of EW Tigers walked or biked to school and had a great time with friends!

Leslie Williams and Autumn Struk for organizing an awesome Family Movie Night! More than 125 EW students and parents watched Hotel Transylvania 2 in the EW gym with popcorn and water.

Tiger Topics Health Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

Dear Parents and Children,



REMINDER to all sixth grade students: A letter went home at the end of last year reminding you about 6th grade physicals.

All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to **JUNE 1, 2017**. **If you had a physical done this summer hand it in now. 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, you can print one off of the EWPTO website or I can send one home with your child.

CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND! There are TONS of boy and girl sweatshirts and jackets. It would be helpful to put your child's name or initials in their jackets, sweatshirts and lunchboxes. I can often figure out who's is who if their name or initials are there.

FLU VACCINES PROTECT YOU!

Have you and your children gotten a flu shot? Most have and there's good reason. Like all vaccines, this one can protect you from a pretty awful illness — the flu. No one loves [shots](#), but for now, a flu shot is the only option. The nasal spray isn't recommended by doctors anymore, because it didn't stop flu cases in kids.

In most people, the flu causes a fever, body aches, and other cold-like symptoms. A person who has the flu will sleep a lot and feel sick, but will get better in a week. The problem with the flu is that it makes some people really sick. They are less able to get well on their own so they may need to go to the hospital.

That's why a flu shot is recommended for just about everyone.

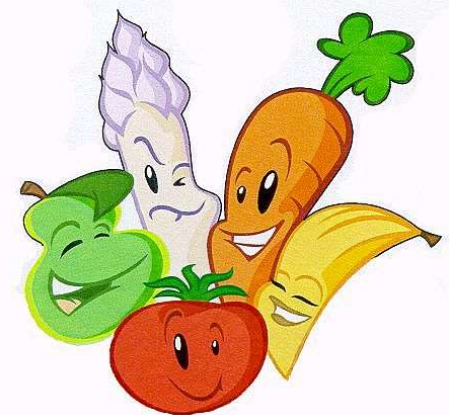


Tiger Snack Tips

Are you tired of kids asking for the same old things for snacks? Doritos, cookies, and other things that won't give them the energy to learn and focus on school activities. Here are a few nut-free snack ideas from some of our EW Parents.

- Jello fruit giggers
- Dried Fruit
- String Cheese
- Pirate Booty (popcorn)
- Veggie Sticks (it's like chips made in sticks from vegetables)
- Applesauce cup or squeeze pouch

Do you have a healthy nut-free snack or recipe you'd like to share with the EW Community? Email it to tigertopics@ewpto.com for publication in our next newsletter.



Tiger Topics – Monthly Spotlight Article



Open Letter to the EW PTO

Dear EW PTO,

We thought it would be a good idea if the families of Emerson-Williams knew about all the amazing things the PTO has done in the past year to help support the music program here at our school.

For many years EW has used clipboards for writing in General Music. They were cumbersome and distracting. Last spring, the PTO purchased 25 lap desks and a cabinet for storing them, that is tucked away in the music room. The kids love these lap desks.

“It’s so much easier to write on this.” [3rd grader]

“This is comfortable and almost like having a real desk, but with a pillow attached.” [5th grader]

“I know I’m smarter because of this thing.” [4th grader]

“I want one of these at home. I’ll bet it would help with my homework.” [6th grader]

For years EW has had to accommodate 60 to 80 students on only four risers. As you know, many times students had to stand on the floor and were out of sight at a concert. NOT ANY MORE!!!

In June we had a New Britain Bees fundraiser. Along with having a great time and singing a terrific rendition of the Star Spangled Banner (We are invited back for the spring of 2017!), we raised enough money to make a dent in buying the risers. The PTO picked up the rest of the hefty balance.

We now have two more risers, taking the total to SIX, with end risers that have side rails to help the children move up and down the steps, independently, as well as protect them from falling off the sides.

“The railing feels safer for walking than holding a teacher’s arm.” [3rd grader]

“Now that we have rails, I don’t feel creeped out when standing close to the edge.” [3rd grader]

“The railing will help us go up and down faster because more people can hold on at the same time. It feels safer.” [5th grader]

“I feel more independent with the rails because I can go up and down by myself”. [5th grader]

“These risers are perfect for Emerson; they show respect to the audience, make us responsible to go up and down by ourselves and they keep us safe. How cool is that! [6th grader]

The PTO purchased a classroom percussion kit for use in our bucket drumming ensembles as well as some “extra” auxiliary percussion for band ensemble. The kit features percussion instruments of all different textures and sounds which gives our Tiger Musicians many options when it comes to making music!

There is also a scholarship fund for students who need financial assistance for an instrument to play. The PTO continues to ensure that EVERY child who wants to play not only gets to play, but gets their “top choice” instrument!

Last year, the Wolfpack Fundraiser for the instrumental music department (supported by the PTO) sold over 500 tickets! We brought over 100 performers to play the “Whip and Nae Nae” at the XL Center and raised enough money to purchase a Bass, Cello, Trumpet, Clarinet and Violin! Not only was the event a ton of fun (Stripes even visited the game!) but it also provided even more instruments to be put in the hands of our Tiger musicians!

Open Letter to the EW PTO Continued...

This year we will be running our FOURTH annual Wolfpack event/fundraiser! We are booked at the XL center for Friday, March 24th! Stay TUNED for more details as we are keeping what song we are playing a surprise for now!

For more information on the Emerson Williams Music Department please friend us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EWTigerMusic>

and/or visit <http://emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com/>

Thanks for your constant and continued support! We look forward to another wonderful year of music making with your amazing children!

Emily Caravella, Instrumental Music Teacher ecaravella@wethersfield.me

Mary Fox, General and Choral Music Teacher mfox@wethersfield.me



EW Tigers at the Wolfpack Game!
Now watch me whip!
Watch me nae nae!



EW Tigers enjoying their NEW
Lap Desks!

PTO Emails

Please add the EW PTO to your contacts list and keep in touch:

2nd Year Co-President – 2yrpres@ewpto.com

1st Year Co-President – 1yrpres@ewpto.com

Treasurer – treasurer@ewpto.com

Secretary – secretary@ewpto.com

Webmaster – webmaster@ewpto.com

Tiger Topics Newsletter – tigertopics@ewpto.com

Do you have a PTO suggestion? – suggestionbox@ewpto.com

Volunteers 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, November 10 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. For more information, please visit the web site at www.wspc-ct.org or email wspc.contact@gmail.com.

Community

Madres Latinas

Madres Latinas of Wethersfield is a group of mothers who come together for support, motivation, friendship, and positive connections to the community. Their mission is to support, protect, and strengthen all Latin Culture. To enlighten and teach others of their Latin Culture. And, to motivate and develop skills that will ensure the success of their children in America, while making sure that they stay connected to their culture.

If you are interested in joining Madres Latinas, please consider attending one of their upcoming monthly meetings 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Room S-2 of the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT on Wednesday, November 9, or December 14, 2016. Madres are currently working on launching a Spanish Language Afterschool Program.

Madres Latinas first Latin Inspired Story Hour was a success! The kids had a great time. Be sure to mark your calendars for the next story hour on Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30pm at Tri-Town YMCA, 1321 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield. Story and craft will be provided. For more information contact: madreslatinawethersfield@gmail.com



2016-2017 EW PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00 p.m.

EW Upper Media Center

November 10

December 8

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.

www.ewpto.com, Webmaster: Chrissy Pikos
Like and Follow us on Facebook at
Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

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October 2016
Editor: Leslie Williams

Scarecrows on Main

A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to **Amy Gallagher-Cuadras, Johnna Kulpa, Monika Shoham and all of the EW Parent volunteers** for organizing our first Emerson-Williams Scarecrow on Main from September 24 through October 23, 2016. We hope you all enjoyed our Stripes Scarecrow supporting Emerson-Williams' School Values: Respect, Responsibility, and Safety!



Tatum and Gavin Struk visiting our EW Scarecrow on Main St. in Old Wethersfield.



Holden Gallagher, Ethan Shoham, and Mason Kulpa (left to right) helping their parents set up our EW Scarecrow on Main.

Wethersfield Creative Arts Council (WCAC)

Since 1960, the WCAC has worked in cooperation with school administrators to bring live artistic performances to the school children of Wethersfield. Their mission is to stimulate an interest in the arts to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of the arts in all of our students. Programs are presented during school hours, with the cooperation of teachers and administrators. The Council is comprised of parent volunteers representing each elementary school and the middle school. They currently serve grades K – 8, bringing performing arts programming to the schools annually and affording every student the same programming experience at each school.

The Council is entirely self-funded, relying on donations to fund each year's programming. Council members raise funds through annual winter/spring fund drives, are supported through funding from the PTOs of the elementary schools and the middle school PAC. The Council has also benefited from grant funding from Target Corporation and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The Board of Education has provided financial support in the past, and continues to show their support in offering in-kind services to the Council, including a liaison. Like them on Facebook at Wethersfield Creative Arts Council.