

FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

**A new season is
the perfect
time to
volunteer for
EWPTO!**

“Autumn paints in colors that summer has never seen.” - Unknown

**October/November
2017**

Dear Emerson-Williams Community,

Bring on the hoodies, fall foliage, hot apple cider and pumpkin latte's, hayrides and pumpkin picking, pumpkin pies and turkey traditions...it's the FALL! November is a time where we can catch our breath and look back on all of the accomplishments we made in the first months of school. Our family events and fundraisers have been most enjoyable and we thank all of you for the time you took out of your normal schedules to support Emerson-Williams and the EWPTO. Dinner on the Lawn, The Scholastic Book Fair, WSPC's Movie on the Green, Zumba, and our start up Fundraisers, Movie Night, Family Game Night & Book Swap and The Tiger Trot Color Run/Walk all made September and October quite a busy month!

The Tiger Trot was an amazing FREE Color Run/Walk hosted by our PTO and we are so very thankful to Keane Foundation as their grant

sponsored the our event! This was our first ever color run/walk and over 275 runners/ walkers participated and left with colorful clothes and smiles! We've heard nothing but positive feedback and we look forward to this event again next year! Our Assembly Committee was busy at work prepping two back-to- back assemblies - one for parents only and the other for the entire school. Many attended the Internet Safety Seminar that was held on 10/10 where we learned much of what youth, adolescent and teens are into and how we can be on the lookout to keep our kids safe. Antonio Rocha with "Story in Motion" came to tell animated stories to our children on 10/12.

November will bring in yummy pies from the Lyman's Pie Fundraiser and the Annual Holiday Store which is being held on 11/30 this year. We are excited that Emerson-Williams is going to be doing the "Look for the Good" Project again which will begin on 11/9. This event is

something that is SO important in both our school and family-life. If we all can just look for the positive and kindness around us – everyone will have a better day! December 8th will be our 2017 Vendor Fair in the EW Gym.

We will not have a PTO meeting in December as this is a busy month for all. Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11th at 7pm in the Upper Media Center! We wish you an amazing month and an extra special holiday season. Make wonderful memories with your family!! Remember – if you need anything or have any questions, we are just an email/text/phone call away!

With Kindness and Respect,
Autumn Struk, 1yrpres@ewpto.com
and Colleen Mattatall,
2yrpres@ewpto.com
Co-Presidents, EWPTO

In This Issue

Get To Know...

This year Tiger Topics is featuring a Get To Know Series where we help our school community get to know our school staff and PTO. We hope you enjoy our second series and get to know Neela Thakur, our Principal, and Mary Lacy and Maria Intino, our Administrative Staff.

EWPTO Event Calendar

Stay in the know about all school, PTO, and community events. You can even link our PTO calendar to your smart device. Check out our website at ewpto.com for more details.

Nurse Ciarcia's Health Tips

Flu tips to stay healthy and flu free. Clothes donations needed. Keep your immunization records up-to-date.

EWPTO Sponsors

We have a ton of awesome sponsors this year! They have donated funds (or their time/services) to EWPTO. Check out and support these local businesses.

EWPTO Event Calendar

November 22

Minimum School Day – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m.

November 23-24

Thanksgiving Recess – We are thankful for the Emerson-Williams school community!

November 28

Puerto Vallarta PTO Fundraiser in Newington. Tired of turkey leftovers? Have lunch or dinner as eat-in or take-out and support EWPTO!

November 30

Holiday Store, 5:30-9:00 p.m. – An EWPTO 'fun'raiser for students to shop for their loved ones' holiday gifts without their parents. 6th grade elves and parent volunteers assist students with their shopping lists and gift wrapping while parents wait in the hallway socializing.

December 7

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Principal's Breakfast

December 8

Comfy Day Spirit Day - Wear pajamas and/or slippers. Please donate \$1.00 to help support CCMC.

Craft & Vendor Fair, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the EW Gym

December 14

Winter Concert - 9:00 a.m. Grades K and 1 Chorus; 10:30 a.m. Grades 2 and 3 Chorus; 1:15 p.m. Grades 4, 5, and 6 Chorus and 2nd/3rd year instrumental students.

December 20

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Emerson-Williams school-wide Creative Arts Performance for students – Amazing Hero Art performed by Rob Surette

December 22

Minimum School Day – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m. and

Hat Spirit Day - Wear your favorite hat to school.

December 25 – January 1

Holiday Recess - No School

January 11

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School

January 20

EW at the UCONN Men's Basketball Game, 12:00 p.m. at the XL Center - UCONN vs. Villanova

February 8

EWPTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Media Center

2017-2018 PTO MEETINGS

7:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays in the EW Upper Media Center

January 11, February 8, March 8, April 19, May 10, and June 7

Get To Know... Emerson-Williams Elementary School Principal

Photography Credit: Dylan Murtha and Mickey Thigpen, 5th Grade Tiger Topics Cub Reporter



I'm Neela Thakur and this is currently my fifth year as Principal of Emerson-Williams Elementary School. Prior to being Principal of Emerson-Williams, I was a middle school teacher for 11 years (in Bloomfield and Ellington), and a middle school Assistant Principal for 10 years (in West Hartford).

I am a single mom with two children - Alex (19) and Dalis (17). Alex is a Sophomore at The University of New Haven, studying Criminal Justice / Investigative Services. Dalis is a Freshman at The Berklee College of Music in Boston, studying Vocal Performance / Professional Music / Musical Theatre Performance. Being a brand new empty-nester is really hard, but I am slowly getting adjusted to it! My children attended the WPS from Pre-K - 12. They attended Emerson-Williams for K - 1, and then were re-districted to Webb. In my spare time, I love to play tennis, walk, and read.

You may be interested to know that when I was 14 years old, I filed a lawsuit against my school district for sex discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. My story was quickly picked up by the Associated Press and went worldwide. As a result of my lawsuit, I received hate mail (understatement!) and fan mail from all around the world! I also was victorious in getting my Massachusetts school district to reverse discriminatory practices against female students.

What do you love most about Emerson-Williams Elementary School? Of all the jobs I've ever had, my role of Principal of Emerson-Williams is my favorite! I love absolutely everything about it: the students, the staff, the parent community, and the fact that every single day presents me with unique and interesting challenges and TONS of things to celebrate. My favorite part of this job is spending time in classrooms, and closely observing those powerful moments when students finally "get it," or when students demonstrate enthusiastic joy and excitement over something they are learning or working on or exploring. I love when students realize that learning something new can be absolutely thrilling!

It's incredibly hard to pick just one memorable EWPTO experience, as there are hundreds!!! Very recently, though, I would have to say The Look for the Good Project, the memorializing of our thousands of gratitude posts from our school-wide Gratitude Wall, completely floored me. These gorgeous framed sentiments in our cafeteria make me so happy every single day. The fact that our EWPTO even thought to do this for us, and then carried the project through to completion, I found to be so very special and thoughtful. This is only one small example, though. I find this parent community to be incredibly hard-working, thoughtful, and collaborative in everything they do. As a Principal, I feel so very lucky to have these parents working side-by-side with us. Together, as a team, we can accomplish anything and EVERYTHING for the good of our students.

Get To Know... Emerson-Williams Elementary School Administrative Staff

Photography Credit: Dylan Murtha and Mickey Thigpen, 5th Grade Tiger Topics Cub Reporters



I'm Maria Intino and I am the Administrative Clerk in the office at Emerson-Williams. I was born in Portugal and came to America with my family when I was 4 years old. I entered Kindergarten not speaking any English, but picked it up very quickly! I still speak Portuguese very well. My husband and I attended the same Catholic School (St. Patrick-St. Anthony) in Hartford for K, 1st and 2nd grade. The school then closed and shortly after I moved to West Hartford and he moved to East Hartford and we met many years later again! We lived one block from each other as children! We have two sons, Anthony, 26 and Nick, 23. My oldest son was born on Christmas Day at 12:25 am (12:25 on 12/25)!

I love Emerson-Williams school for many reasons. I am starting my 3rd year here and the staff and parents have always been very friendly and welcoming. I felt at home right away. The students are wonderful also and can be so funny at times! I also feel that our Principal, Ms. Thakur, is very approachable and very good with staff, parents, and the students.

The EWPTO is fantastic. The events for the students are so wonderful and fun. The staff lunches and everything else they do for us is so generous and very much appreciated. I think of each PTO member, parent/guardian, or grandparent at Emerson-Williams as a friend.



Hi, I'm Mary Lacy and I'm the Administrative Secretary at Emerson-Williams. I am the mother of three former Emerson-Williams students. My son, Nick, is married and living in Colorado. My son, Chris, is engaged and lives in West Hartford. My daughter, Meaghan, lives in Wethersfield and works at Charles Wright. My favorite time is spent with family and friends. I love to read, cook, free weights, beaches, motorcycles, road bikes, gardening, church, horseback riding, movies and sewing. My personal motto is to share and spread kindness each day.

My passion for this school goes back 26 years ago when my oldest son, Nick, started first grade here. I immediately jumped in to volunteer my time through the E-W PTO. As an involved parent, I became fully connected to the heartbeat of this wonderful school. I had a better understanding of the educational process and classroom environment. I experienced firsthand the interaction between families and the community, as well as the incredible role our teachers play each day in the lives of our children.

My fondest PTO memory is when two other parents and I implemented the previous E-W playscape and the smaller one that still exists today. Our students had been without a playground for an entire year. We conducted a month-long penny drive as one of our fundraisers. On the last day, every student gathered in the hallways to connect a line of pennies from one classroom to the next, stretching around the building more than once. The kids loved seeing how all of the donations joined together to create a building-wide circle of pennies.

When my children moved on from Emerson, I was fortunate and very excited to be offered a position here as the part-time Administrative Clerk. I worked beside the staff I knew from volunteering and now worked for the same parents that had become my friends from the PTO committees. A few years later, I accepted my current position as the full-time Administrative Secretary. It is and has always been a joy, an honor and a blessing to interact with and serve all of Emerson-Williams amazing children and families on a daily basis!

Wethersfield Public Library

READ TO A DOG: for 5-12 year olds

Thursday, November 30th & December 7th, 14th, 21st or 28th at 4:00 pm

Read to Nala, a Reading Education Assistance Dog from Healers with Halos Therapy Dogs. Children will register for 10 minutes of reading time. Registration and Information: Children's Events call 860-257-2801 or email childservices@wethersfieldlibrary.org.

Saturday Cinema: Bell, Book & Candle

Saturday December 9, 1:30 pm

Bell, Book and Candle (1958 comedy)

Directed by Richard Quine.

Stars James Stewart, Kim Novak, Jack Lemmon, Ernie Kovacs, and Hermione Gingold.

"A Manhattan witch falls in love with a publisher after casting a spell on him that obliges him to dump his fiancée and pursue her instead." (106 min, Unrated)

Saturday Cinema is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Tiger Topics Health Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

DEAR PARENTS,

Thank you to all of the parents who donated clothes to the health office.

I am in need of some additional clothes of all sizes, leggings, track pants or sweat pants preferred. If you are able to donate any of these items please Email me at lciarcia@wetherfield.me. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



REMINDER to all sixth grade students:

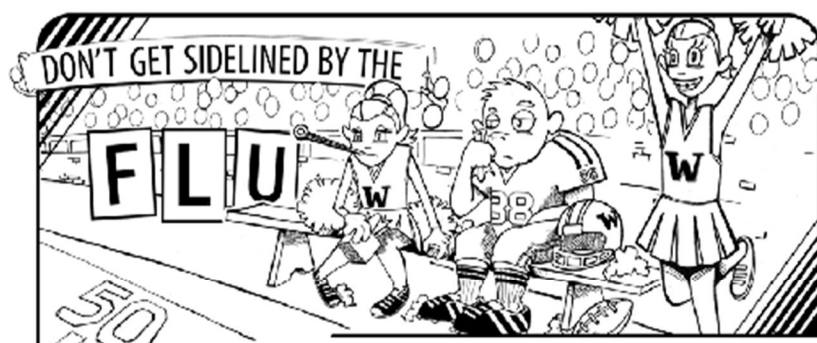
All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to **JUNE 1, 2018**. ***Students will not be allowed to enter seventh grade in the fall if this information has not been submitted.*** If you need the blue State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment 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:

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

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



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.

www.ewpto.com

Chrissy Pikos, Webmaster

Check out our web page and the new navigation buttons on the right! Especially our 'New Parents Information' button and the awesome new Site Map located there for quick easy navigation.

Committee News

Subscribe to the Emerson-Williams event calendar. By linking the EW event calendar to your cell phone or tablet, you can stay up to date on PTO events. [Find out how here.](#)

The PTO sponsors activities such as the Book Fair, Address Directory, Holiday Store, **High Touch - High Tech**, Strawberry Festival, and many others.

Together we can do so much more for our children.

Emerson-Williams PTO

Emerson-Williams Elementary
436 likes

Liked Sign Up

You and 48 other friends like this

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO
about an hour ago

The holiday store is on Thursday, November 30th

The children of EW will experience the thrill of picking out their own holiday gifts for family and friends. The Holiday Store features different gift items priced at \$2.00. You will find something for everyone on their list.

Emerson-Williams PTO Facebook Page
Like Share

Holiday Store

Craft & Vendor Fair

New Parents Information

Box Tops

Thank you to all of the Emerson-Williams community that collected and submitted so many Box Tops for Education. We collected a total of 4,306 box tops, giving EWPTO a total of \$430.60! Ms. Charbonneau's fifth grade class brought in the most Box Tops - 682! Each student received a back pack as a prize!

Talent Show

Are you a dancer? Magician? Singer? Artist? If so, make sure you save the date February 9, 2018 for the Emerson Williams Shining Stars Talent Showcase!

Holiday Store – Volunteers Needed

The Holiday Store Committee needs your help! We know times are busy, however we need help running the Holiday Store on Thursday, November 30th... Can you help?! If you have any questions, call Karen at 860-805-2286 or sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044faaa82dabff2-holiday4>. You can also go to www.ewpto.com and click the Holiday Store link on the right navigation bar.

Craft & Vendor Fair – Volunteers Needed

The Craft & Vendor Fair Committee needs your help with set up, clean up, and some general help throughout the night. Are you able to help at the Vendor Fair on Friday, December 8? Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044faaa82dabff2-vendor> or go to www.ewpto.com and click on the Craft & Vendor Fair link on the right navigation bar.

Emerson-Williams Music Department

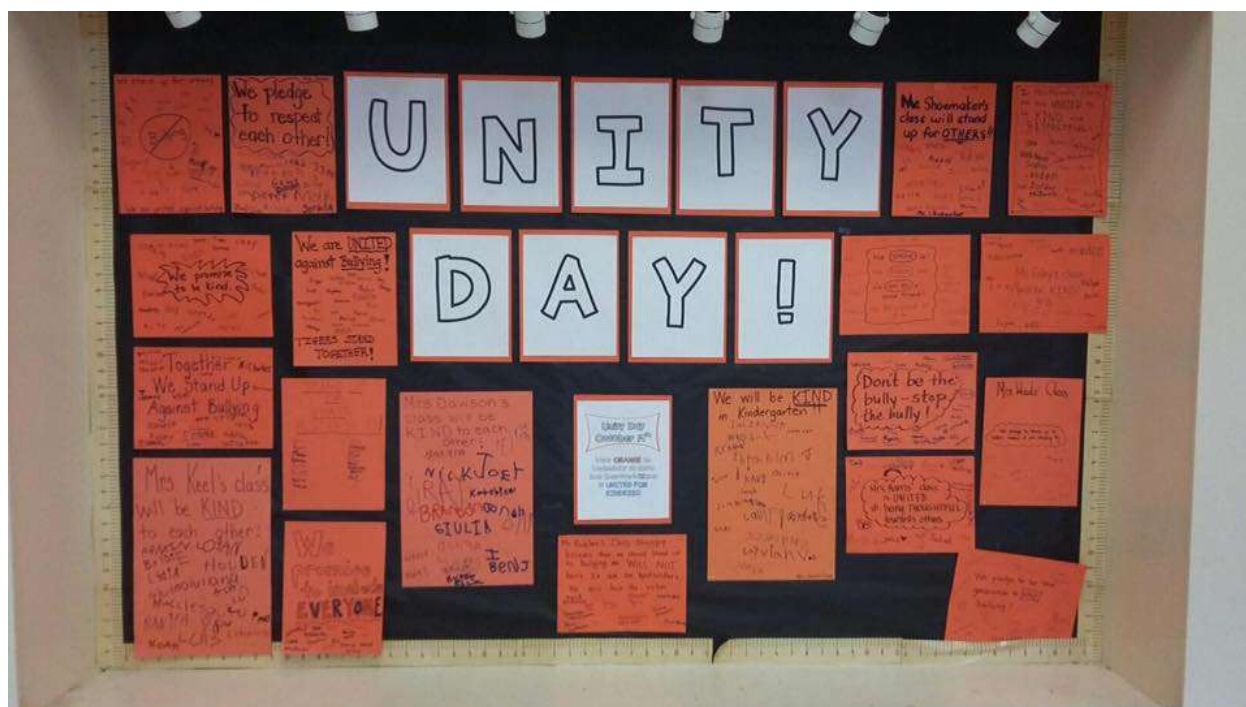
THANK YOU to all the Veterans for their service!

Ms. Fortuna and Ms. Caravella wanted to send you all the direct link to this years video project. Please share with your Veterans as you please! The musicians did an excellent job!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTCPuhs92AA>

Unity Day

October was National Bullying Prevention Month. Unity Day is a national, and even worldwide, event where people come together to show that they are together against bullying. Celebrating Unity Day is the perfect way to show that the Emerson-Williams school community is united for kindness, inclusion, and acceptance. On Wednesday, October 25, 2017 students and staff at Emerson-Williams Elementary School were encouraged to wear orange to show a powerful message of solidarity. At the town hall meeting, sixth grade student council members taught students about the importance of Unity Day. Students were asked to sign the anti-bullying bulletin board as a pledge to be kind and stand up for others. They traced their hands, cutting out copies, and writing a random act of kindness that they plan to perform. This can be anything from inviting a friend to play, giving a classmate a compliment, or helping someone in need. Our EW students to see how we are all UNITED FOR KINDNESS! For more information, please email Carissa Mierzejewski, school social worker, at cmierzejewski@wethersfield.me.





Taco Tuesday to benefit the PTO!

November 28th

3-8pm

Puerto Vallarta Restaurant,

2385 Berlin Tnpk, Newington

Wear your EW Tigers Apparel!



**ANNUAL
EMERSON-WILLIAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO
Craft & Vendor Fair**

Friday, Dec 8, 2017

461 Wells Rd

Wethersfield

5PM – 9PM

Free Admission

Raffle

Win a \$300 vineyard vines shopping spree

Do not need to be present to win

Items will be held for 7 calendar days

Please no pets, but service animals are permitted




Order Your Emerson Williams Spiritwear Today!



PURCHASE YOUR EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL SPIRITWEAR ITEMS WITH FREE SHIPPING TODAY!

November 13, 2017 – November 30, 2017!

Place Your Order Via Telephone or Through Our Online Store:

Call : 1-800-249-5275 and our customer support representatives will be happy to assist in placing your order – OR – go to our dedicated uniform store:

Online Store  <http://emersonwilliamselementary.epluno.com/>

Step 1:

Samples of the Spiritwear will be available in most sizes at the school; be sure to bring your student in to try on the items they require to ensure the correct sizes are ordered. **Items with a logo cannot be returned or exchanged.*

Step 2:

When it is time to order your spiritwear, all you have to do is click the link on your school's website or visit your direct web store link <http://emersonwilliamselementary.epluno.com/> and select your items!

Step 3:


Once all pre-packaged orders by student/parent's name arrive to the front office you will be contacted to pick them up. Orders will arrive about three weeks after the shopping window closes.

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