



Tiger Topics

School Newsletter

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

As you may know, we will hold parent teacher conferences in October. You have received a brochure in regard to parent teacher conferences. This brochure is a guide that can assist you in formulating questions concerning your child's academics, and helps you and your child's teacher set goals for the year. In December, you will receive your child's progress report. This is a new standards based progress report. Information in regard to this new progress report was reviewed at a PTO meeting last spring. If you would like more information, you can go to the district website to access the Parent Handbook for the progress report. This information is under Curriculum and Instruction.

<http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=2360>

The Wethersfield Police act as partners with the school in providing information to students in regard to safety. During October, D.A.R.E. Officer Eric Knapp will present a program to student in grades Kindergarten through grade 6 on bus safety. At this time, he will also discuss safety issues regarding walking or riding bikes to school. Also, Detective Tom Reagan will present a program on internet safety to students in grades 5 and 6.

We are happy to report that every classroom from Kindergarten through grade 6 now has a Smart Board installed. These final installations were completed over the four day Columbus Day weekend. In addition to the installation of the Smart Boards, we have 30 iPads available for student use. Also during the four day weekend, the cafeteria was painted and the nurse's office was tiled.

Finally, the fall weather is changing rapidly, and our goal is to go out for recess every day that the weather permits. Please make sure that your child comes to school prepared for outdoor recess. Being properly dressed makes their time outside more enjoyable!

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PTO Highlights

Fall has definitely arrived! The weather has turned cooler and the PTO is in full swing.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the PTO at our annual book fair. We raised over \$1700 dollars to support the PTO's general fund.

Parent conferences are coming up on October 24, 25, and 26. Remember, these are minimum school days for the students.

October 31 is Pumpkin Day, so get in the spirit, and remind your child to wear orange!

On November 27 we will be holding our annual Holiday Store/Vendor Night from 5:30 to 8 p.m. There will be a variety of vendors for the adults to browse among while the kids are selecting their gifts. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this fun event!

One of the PTO's goals is to raise money to replace our aging playscape. You can help by paying for your regular grocery shopping with gift cards to local grocery stores purchased through the PTO. We receive between 8 and 11% back on every gift card purchased through us. This can really add up if many families participate! Gift cards are bought at face value – you don't have to spend any extra money – and using gift cards as your payment does not affect your gas points! To find out more, please click this link: <http://www.ewpto.com/Easy-Three.php>. Click on the green box in the link to find a sign up form. Andrea Ginter (THANK YOU, ANDREA!) has been running this fundraiser since the middle of last year. It takes only a few minutes to fill out the sign up form, and Andrea has made the process of paying for and receiving the gift cards simple and easy. We want you to participate! We *need* you to participate! Please click the link and sign up!

As always, please feel free to contact either one of us with any PTO questions or concerns.

Regards,
Martin Malicki, 2nd Year Co-President
John Kiniry, 1st Year Co-President

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).

Mark Your Calendars!

- Creative Arts Council presents Soro-Bindi: October 18
- Spirit Day – Wear orange and black: October 31
- Sixth Grade Committee meeting: November 1
- Picture Retake Day: November 9
- Holiday Store/ Vendor Night: November 27

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/pa/ge.cfm?p=1643>

2012-2013 PTO Meeting Schedule

November 8 • January 10 • February 13 • March 14 • April 11 • May 9 • June 13

Mixed Bag Fundraiser

We are selling eco-friendly bags and accessories that are reusable, recyclable, and ridiculously cool! See for yourself – check out the Mixed Bag fundraiser catalog your child brought home last week, or go to www.mixedbagdesigns.com. We make 50% profit on catalog orders! Orders and payment are due October 26. If you have questions, please contact Janet Vasel at 860-721-7090 or ajavasel@cox.net.

Community Outreach Food Drive

Next month the Emerson-Williams Community Outreach Committee will partner with Social Services of Wethersfield to host a Thanksgiving food collection to help restock their shelves with nutritional staples. **From Monday, November 5 through Thursday, November 9**, we ask families who are able to contribute to donate the following items according to grade. For the safety of our children, we request no glass containers. All donated items should be dropped off in individual classrooms.

Kindergarten:	Cereal
1st Grade:	Boxed Potatoes / Stuffing Mix
2nd Grade:	Dessert Mixes / Quick Bread Mixes
3rd Grade:	Canned Fruit / Peas (other veggies are stocked)
4th Grade:	Peanut Butter / Jelly (plastic)
5th Grade:	Turkey Gravy / Cranberry Sauce (jellied)
6th Grade:	Fruit Juice (canned or plastic bottles)

If you would like to deliver a box of donations to the Department of Social Services the week of November 13 please contact Phoebe Ostergren at 860-571-8748 or email postergren@juno.com). A tour of the food bank can be arranged for any interested delivery volunteers.

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 and Vendor Night

It's that time of year again! The Emerson-Williams Holiday Store & Vendor Fair will be held Tuesday, November 27, 2012. If you are interested in participating in either event please contact:

Holiday Store Co-Chairs:

Lauren Barbara
snl0617@att.net
860-665-9448

Amber Kiniry
amberstark76@aol.com
860-424-2144

Vendor Fair Co-Chairs:

Alicia Schenkel
ajs24@cox.net
860-529-0611

Kathleen Peacock
mpeacock5@ymail.com
860-461-8683



***Holiday Store is in need of wrapping paper, gift bags and tape.
We appreciate any donations!***

Wethersfield Public Library Events

Mother – Daughter Book Club: Tuesday, November 13; 6:30 p.m.

Discuss *Ten Rules for Living with My Sister* by Ann M. Martin with other moms and their daughters. 3rd-5th graders.

Pizza & Pages: Tuesday, November 27; 6:30 p.m.

Discuss Nutmeg Award winner *The Wonder of Charlie Anne* by Kimberly Newton Fusco. Light supper will be available. 4th-6th graders.

Mad Science with Miss Melissa: Thursdays, November 1, 8, 15, 29; 6:30 p.m.

Participate in exciting experiments and hands-on activities. 1st graders and up.

Junie B. Jones Jingle Bells, Batman Smells: Saturday, November 17; 10:30 a.m.

The Newington Children's Theatre Company will come to the library to act out a scene from their upcoming play and read part of the book. For all ages.

Please contact the Wethersfield Public Library to register for these events, or to see their full calendar.

Creative Arts Council

On October 18 the Creative Arts Council presents to Emerson-Williams students... Soro-Bindi, an exciting, interactive performance of Ghanaian dances, songs and stories. Iddi Saaka and his dance partner lead the students through various traditional dances and teach about Ghana through storytelling. Students are invited to play traditional Ghanaian instruments and join together at the end for a big circle dance.

Soro-Bindi teaches students about Africa in general and Ghana in particular. The performance encourages students to respect and appreciate different cultures through an exploration of Ghana and its art forms.

Clothing Drive – WHS SAFE GRAD

On Thursday, October 25 a clothing drive will be held to benefit Wethersfield High School Class of 2013 Safe Graduation. Bring clean items to the Wethersfield High School Cafeteria (Enter pool entrance and continue straight!) from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Win for Emerson-Williams

Consider entering the **Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes** to give us a chance to win \$30,000 worth of school wellness prizes and a new playscape. You can enter once per day from now until March 15. Visit every day and enter to give us the best chance to win!

<http://www.togethercounts.com/at-school/win-for-your-school/sweepstakes>

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!

Health Tips

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

REMINDER to all sixth grade students: A letter went home recently reminding you about 6th grade physicals.

*All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to **JUNE 1, 2013**. 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.*

A MATTER OF LICE

As a new year begins with new faces; some visitors are not always welcome, I mean those dreaded lice. Here is the latest information about assessing and treating head lice.

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, or direct contact with lice on items shown below.
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 unless there are two or more active cases in a classroom.
7. The "gold" standard if infestation is the direct visualization of live bugs. Contact your pediatrician for lice treatment options.
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 YOU NO LONGER SEE ANY.**
9. **NEVER TREAT ANYONE** "just in case". Head lice products can be 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.
11. According to the National Assoc. of School Nurses, children found with live lice should be referred to parents for treatment. One of the biggest challenges is getting parents to communicate the problem to school and to other parents when they find head lice. This may prevent the passing back and forth of this 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 you child's head. We do not judge and we handle lice cases in a *confidential* manner. Please just ask.

Visit these links for valuable information and videos: www.headliceinfo.com and www.cdc.gov/lice

Curriculum Special: Exploring the Math in Play

Play is powerful! There are so many activities and games that help young students develop foundational skills for math as well as practice more sophisticated math skills.

“While engaged in math games, children tend to stick with a problem longer, puzzle over it and approach it in various ways that can lead to significant learning. When several children grapple with the same problem, they often come up with different approaches, discuss various strategies, and learn from one another. These aspects of play can promote thinking and learning in mathematics as well as in other areas.”

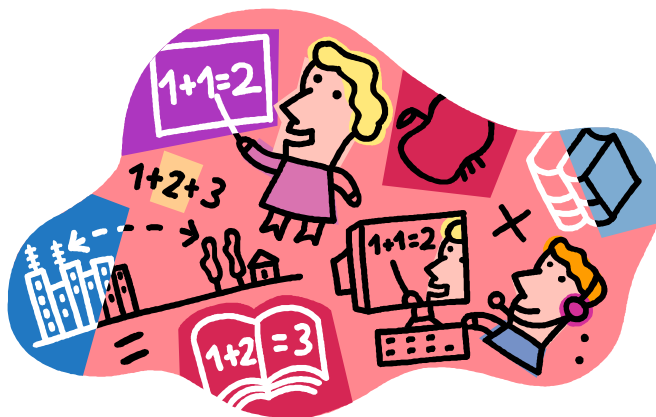
Some great examples include: building with blocks or Legos, playing dominoes, and playing board games like Chutes and Ladders, Candy Land and Monopoly.

The Everyday Mathematics (EM) Program includes a wide variety of math games that offer students repeated practice with basic facts, concepts and skills, as well as games that present a challenge. Each student in grades K-6 receives their own username and password to EM Online, giving them access to math games and other resources. These games are an important part of our math curriculum and are played in the classroom. Families are encouraged to play these games with their children at home. Parents can help improve mathematics learning when they schedule regular blocks of time form playing math games, and ask questions that encourage their child to explain their strategies and understandings.



Go to www.everydaymathonline.com. If your child does not remember their username or password, please contact the classroom teacher.

Sarah Johnson
Wethersfield District Curriculum Specialist



Curriculum Special: Writing Stamina

During Writers' Workshop students are working through the writing process. They choose an idea, draft, revise, edit and publish. However, Writers' Workshop does more than teach the process of writing; through daily Writers' Workshop students are also building stamina.

So, what is writing stamina? Writing stamina is the students' ability to spend time putting pen to paper, dedicating time to their own thoughts and reflections. Students are also building stamina by learning how to revisit the same piece of writing more than once. Daily Writers' Workshop increases the student's ability to reread, restructure, and revise. To develop rigor and stamina, students should increase the frequency and duration of writing.

In order to do this, writing must be purposeful and have meaning. Teachers sometimes refer to this as "lingering with a purpose." From Kindergarteners learning to revisit drawings to add labels, to sixth graders putting an anthology of memoirs together to create a sequence of life lessons, students are being taught that writing matters!

Take a look at the excerpt below from a professional writing blog:

Writing Stamina is the enduring strength to stay the course and complete your work. Lack of writing stamina is probably the number one reason why some books never get finished. I'm sure that most people who want to write a book have the know-how to do it, but for some reason it just never gets done. I can imagine how this plays out. Someone starts writing in their spare time and for a while everything is going smoothly. As time passes the spare time gets shorter and soon writing stops completely. The next scenario is that someone stops writing because of writer's block or flaw in his or her plot. Instead of finding some way to move forward, it's much easier to stop.

So, what can you do to improve your writing stamina? You need moral support, a cheering crew that gives you extra motivation. Perhaps you can find this in your friends and family members. If not, there are writing forums where you can meet other writers that might be facing the exact same problems that you're experiencing. This is a place where writers help each other out and cheer each other on.

Writers Workshop provides an everyday forum to provide extra motivation. Students are building a community where they are learning how to work together and cheer each other on!

Pauline Greer
Wethersfield District Curriculum Specialist



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