Tiger Topics

September, 2009

School Newsletter

860-563-9638 or 860-571-8360

NKSON-WILLIA

2009-2010 PTO MEETING DATES:

(ALL PTO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE UPPER MEDIA CENTER AT 7PM)

- October 8, 2009
- November 12, 2009
- December 10, 2009
- January 14, 2010
- February 11, 2010
- March 11, 2010
- April 8, 2010
- May 13, 2010
- June 10, 2010

If you haven't yet signed up for P.E.N.S (Parent Email Notification System), please go online to our website and do so! Signing up will mean less paperwork sent home, and will help Emerson Williams do our part to save the environment!

Please send topics or suggestions for the next issue of Tiger Topics to Kathy Zapor at zapkat@cox.net by Friday, October 9th.

461 Wells Road, Wethersfield, CT

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK ELIZABETH T. CATARIUS

It was a smooth start to the opening of school and the students seem to have adjusted well. We had a school wide assembly on Friday, September 4th, to introduce any new staff and to acknowledge each classroom and teacher. We also discussed the Six Pillars of Character (Caring, Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness and Citizenship) and described each Pillar and its meaning. The Six Pillars and the activities revolving around them will be incorporated into the fabric of our school life.

The Connecticut Mastery Tests are administered to grades 3-6 every spring, and the results for 2009 arrived in July. Families received their child's individual test results during the first week in September. The results reported in the table are for students **at or above the goal**.

	Reading	Math	Writing	Science (Grade 5 only)
Grade 3	78.4%	82.7%	69.2%	
Grade 4	72.6%	79.4%	70.8%	
Grade 5	79.5%	77.9%	83.9%	64%
Grade 6	90.2%	88.2%	70.6%	

We made great gains in many areas, especially in reading in grade 3 with a 30 point increase over the spring 2008 scores. When compared to the results of the 159 towns that reported their grade 3 reading scores, Emerson-Williams grade 3 score in reading was #17 out of all the 159 towns in Connecticut. Other significant gains in reading and math were made at other grade levels. Overall, we made gains in 9 out of the 13 areas measured. All the staff and students at Emerson-Williams should be commended for their effort. However, we still have work to do in many areas, most notably in the area of writing.

Finally, the students in grades 1-6 are now having recess before lunch. Research has shown that students finish more of their lunch and are better behaved when recess occurs before lunch. There have been a few adjustments that have had to be made, but, overall, the teachers are very happy with the results. By having recess before lunch, the children are ready to learn when they come back from lunch. In addition, Mrs. Ciarcia, our school nurse, reports that the number of students that she would usually see during the lunch wave has dropped dramatically. Mr. Nelson, our head custodian, also reports that he is throwing away far less trash (and therefore less food) than in the past. Please be assured that every child is able to finish his or her lunch.

I know that I speak for all of the staff when I express my wish that each child has a successful school year at Emerson-Williams School.

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME BACK! WOW!

Where did the summer go? Anyway, it has been a great start to what will prove to be a successful year for the EW PTO! We kicked off the year with a PTO Orientation meeting for new incoming families which proved beneficial already! We thank all those who have volunteered and supported the PTO functions so far and we were happy to see so many new and familiar faces at the first meeting. We have so much to look forward to in the upcoming year: keep your eye on the PTO website:

MICHELE LAVOIE 944-6765 ~ PAULA HEINZMAN 571-8939

http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct. us/Emerson/PTO/ for updates to

the PTO calendar of events. We understand the restrictions the economy has put us all under, however, we have selected a variety of opportunities for fundraisers throughout the year in hopes that our families can choose their personal favorites which they want to support. Membership is going strong, and our first fundraiser. Genevieve has kicked off. Remember: in lieu of fundraisers, you can always make a donation. Book fair has been a great success, and the

teachers love getting those new special additions to their classroom libraries. There are still some committees without co-chairs. If you would like to offer your energy and ideas, please call Michele (944-6765) or Paula (571-8939). See you at the October 8th meeting!



VISIT US ON THE WEB! HTTP://WWW.WETHERSFIELD.K12.CT.US/EMERSON/PTO

Thank you to all of the wonderful 1st Grade Lunch Helpers who gave so generously of their time and kindness helping the students adjust to cafeteria lunch during their first days of school this year! Special thanks to: Angela Tollis, Martin Malicki, Maureen Sullivan, Paula Heinzmann, Karen DiCenso, Rosanna D'onofrio and Susan Zadrozny.

~Sue Breglio and Beth Thompson, Co-Chairs

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Teacher Welcome Back Luncheon on Tuesday, August 31st! It was a great success. The staff were appreciative and enjoyed themselves! Without the help of those that shopped, cooked and baked the event couldn't have happened. Thank you Karen Discenzo, Beth Thompson, Angela Tollis, Michelle Bosco, Maureen Sullivan, Martin Malicki, Jackie Lincoln, Martina Cacioli, Isabel Tenney and Kimberly Marena!

~Sue Breglio & Phoebe Ostergren, Co-Chairs

- Thank you to everyone who contributed items to the Hospitality Refreshment table for Open House-Michele Livingston, Isabel Tenney, Martina Cacioli, Kim McGrath, Darka Jara, Andrea Ginter, Susan Zadrozny, Kathy Zapor, Michele Lavoie, Paula Henizman, and Jackie Malizia!
 - ~Michelle Bosco, Chairperson

**** *** CREATIVE ARTS sneak peak

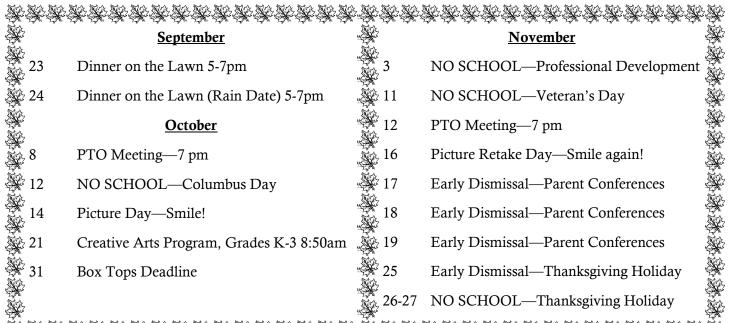
The Wethersfield Creative Arts Council is happy to announce our first performances for the school year of 2009 2010:

Freestyle Repertory Theatre - Grade K-8 - Week of October 19th.

Program: Improve Your Mind

This high energy program is designed and presented as a competitive sport. Two teams of actors challenge each other to create scenes, songs, stories and poems, based on suggestions from the audience. The goal is to introduce the students to the art of theatrical collaboration and to help them explore their creativity through improvisational skills.

IMPORTANT DATES





Congratulations Emerson Williams Elementary School As of 08/26/2009 our school has earned a total of 137,200 Education Express points.

Exciting news to welcome you to the new school year: Big Y stores are offering DOUBLE POINTS on all specially marked items starting September 3rd through September 30, 2009.

Quick and Easy Sign Up for Parents

School is beginning and we know your time is limited. The following is a link to help you get signed up for the Big Y Education Express Program. Please check your receipts to confirm that they have our school designated to receive the points.

Just click here at http://register.bigyeducationexpress.com/Default.aspx?sid=5880&t=c

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the program please contact Big Y at: 1-800-599-9017 or <u>questions@bigyeducationexpress.com</u>.

TIGER TOPICS HEALTH TIPS

DEAR PARENTS and KIDS, Welcome back to all! Thank you for getting all of the physical forms and medication forms in to me. Any changes during the year please let me know.

REMINDER to all sixth grade students:

All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to <u>JUNE 1, 2010</u>. 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.

We have several children with nut allergies this year. Letters have been sent out to the classes who have those children as students. Please be sure not to send items with nuts when sending in foods or snacks for those classes.

An exciting new initiative is coming to elementary schools this Fall! September 21-25, 2009 has been deemed P.A.C.K Week: <u>Pack Assorted Colors for Kids Week</u>. This national healthy-eating initiative will encourage kids to consume more fruits and vegetables. 96% of kids fall short of the recommended two to five cups per day of fruits and vegetables.

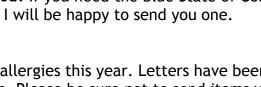
Each day of P.A.C.K. week has been assigned a different color and parents/guardians will be encouraged to send their children to school with a lunch or snack item from the designated color group each day. <u>Since all forms count-fresh, died, canned, frozen, and 100% juice- it is easier than ever to include more fruits and vegetables in children's diets</u>.

Monday, September 21- Pack **Purple** Day Tuesday, September 22- Pack **white** Day Wednesday, September 23- Pack **Red** Day Thursday, September 24- Pack **Yellow/Orange** Day Friday, September 25- Pack **Green** Day

If you would like, you can wear the color of the day that week as well. So please join in on this fun week.

September is childhood cancer awareness month. The objective of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is to spotlight childhood cancer and survivorship issues related to childhood cancer nationally. CureSearch is dedicated to leading the way in advocacy and fundraising for childhood cancer research and awareness. Please visit the website, <u>www.curesearch.org</u> and get involved in any way that you can.

BY LINDA CIARCIA, RN, BSN





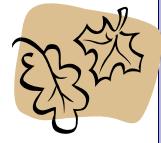


Genevieve's Fall Fundraiser

Our Fall Fundraiser is on till September 23rd. This first fundraiser of the year secures the basis for ongoing extra-curriculum activities like High-Touch High-Tech, Field Trips, Author Visits, Creative Art Support, etc. 40 - 50 % of this fundraiser benefit the school PTO budget.

Thank you for considering placing an order! Please Participate!

Contact Sue Breglio @ 529-0626 <u>sbreglio@cox.net</u> or Martina Cacioli @ 257-4773 <u>miketinacacioli@att.net</u>





Coming Soon-Entertainment Books!

Beginning October 1, we will be having an Entertainment Book fundraiser. The 2010 edition of the Entertainment Book includes several updates, including coupons for Stew Leonard's, Hops and T.G.I. Friday's. You'll find that the Entertainment Book pays for itself many times over. Stay tuned for more updates soon! Questions? Contact Andrea Ginter @ 529-4939.

Comedy Night

Comedy Night has been such a success in the past couple of years, that we're bringing it back with all new talent! Come join us for a night of side-splitting laughter, featuring the comedy of **Jim McCue** on Friday, November 13th at the Community Center.

Tickets for this adults only event will be available at the door for \$25 each, or plan ahead and save: tickets sold prior to November 1st will be \$22 each. Want to save even

more? Get a group of friends together and purchase a table of 8 tickets for only \$20 each.

Comedy Night, as in years past, is BYO—food and beverages, and we will again be featuring a raffle with some wonderful prizes.

All proceeds from this event will go towards purchasing a SMART Board for our students.

Please contact Michele Lavoie @ 944-6765 dancewme430@cox.net or Kathy Zapor @ 235-6298 zapkat@cox.net for tickets or questions.





EMERSON WILLIAMS SCRAPBOOK DAY FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM WETHERSFIELD H.S. CAFETERIA

Mark your calendars now to join us for an all day scrapbooking event to help benefit your school! We're offering hours of uninterrupted album making time to sit down and work on your albums, check out the newest product releases, enjoy the day with friends and earn money for your school! What can be better than that?!

We will have product on hand to purchase and a portion of the proceeds will go directly to Emerson Williams. The Fee for the day is \$25 which includes a Pizza Lunch and water. Bring a snack to share and earn a raffle ticket! We have FABULOUS PRIZES to raffle off – products and services donated by local businesses (for example: Wooden Tap, Blades, Village Pizza, Alta Moda and much more). Raffle tickets will also be sold at the event. SPACE IS LIMITED so reserve your seat TODAY! Please contact Michelle Bosco at 257-7140 or Iris Strong at 667-0228 with any questions. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: IRIS STRONG

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED: SCRAPBOOK FUNDRAISER, ATTN. MICHELLE BOSCO

EMERSON WILLIAMS SCRAPBOOK DAY FUNDRAISER

NAME: _____

PHONE #:_____

NUMBER ATTENDING: