



Welcome Back!

Wishing all of our Tigers a fabulous and exciting academic school year 2017-2018!

September 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome Back EW Tigers, Parents, and families!

We hope you had a wonderful summer! This year we have tons of wonderful things in store for you! From the Color Run on 9/30 and the Adults-only Cyber Security Seminar on 10/10 at 3:05 (mark your calendars and take the time off to attend- this is really worth it!) to all the great family fun activities we have planned it will certainly be a big year!

Please consider being a member and making a tax-deductible donation to the PTO. Also, check with your company to see if they match donations to non-profits to maximize your donation! We are so grateful!

This year our 1st PTO meeting will be on the THIRD Thursday, September 21st at 7pm in the Upper Media Center. Typically we are scheduled on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please join us to see how you can get involved and what we already have planned. If you can't make the meeting but want to stay informed please 'Like' us on Facebook and sign up for our emails from our website www.ewpto.com or email us at PTOBoard@ewpto.com

Welcome back! It's going to be a wonderful year!

Colleen Mattatall, 2nd Year Co-President
Autumn Struk, 1st Year Co-President

IN THIS ISSUE

Get To Know...

This year Tiger Topics is featuring a Get To Know Series where we help our school community to get to know our school and PTO. We hope you enjoy our first series and get to know our EWPTO Board including our two Co-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary.

EW Student Phone Book

Ever wonder how you are going to invite your child's best friend to his/her birthday party or maybe for a play date? Well, our EW Student Phone Book is the place to look. Consider submitting your name and email or phone number to publish. It is a booklet sent home to all of our students for use by parents in our school community. It is not published online, but you can go to our web site to submit your info at ewpto.com and click on the EW Student Phone Book button.

EWPTO Event Calendar

September 8

Dinner & Music on the Lawn – 5:00 p.m. at Emerson Williams near the large playscape. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket, chairs, bug spray, and all your family for a fun filled night at school. Get to know your child's friends and family too!

September 10

At the annual Family Picnic on the Green we will pause for the 16th Anniversary of 9/11 to support one another and remember those Wethersfield Residents who died. Everyone is asked to bring their own blanket, or 'fancy' tables and chairs, and a picnic supper. 5 – 7 p.m. at the Broad Street Green- Come early and stay late! Bring your friends and neighbors too! Sponsored by Wethersfield volunteers and supporters of the Keane Foundation. No Rain Date.

September 11-15

EWPTO Book Fair in the Emerson-Williams Upper Media Center. The book fair will last all week and be available for your shopping pleasure during our open house nights. Children will get to explore the Book Fair during school hours. Proceeds from the sale will go to the PTO General Fund and support all of this year's planned events and activities.

September 13

Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the EW PTO, 6 – 9 p.m. in the EW Upper Media Center

Open House (Adults Only) – Grades K and 3 at 6:30-7:00 p.m.; Grade 2

at 7:05-7:35 p.m.; Grade 1 at 7:40-8:10 p.m. Other staff and teachers available 6:00-6:30 p.m.

September 14

Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the EW PTO, 6 – 9 p.m. in the EW Upper Media Center

Open House (Adults Only) – Grade 4 at 6:30-7:00 p.m.; Grade 5 at 7:05-7:35 p.m.; Grade 6 at 7:40-8:10 p.m. Other staff and teachers available 6:00-6:30 p.m.

September 21

PTO Orientation for all new parents 6:30 p.m. in the EW Upper Media Center. Welcome to the PTO and overview of our organization. Learn ways to get involved!

EWPTO Meeting 7 p.m. in the EW Upper Media Center. We welcome new members and enjoy seeing familiar faces! Join us!

September 22

Movie Night on the Green – 5:30 – 10:00 p.m. Wethersfield Elementary Schools Parent Council (WSPC) and the Keane Foundation present Movie Night (Minions) on the Broad Street Green in Wethersfield. Bring your own picnic, blankets, etc. DJ Games and Movie! Rain Date - September 29.

September 23

Zumba For Kids - Hosted by the EWPTO and Madres Latinas. Funded by the Keane Foundation Grant.

September 28

Picture Day sponsored by the EWPTO. Students will have their professional portraits taken by Ted Morton Photography. Dress to impress for a great student photo to cherish for years to come.

September 30

Color Run – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Hosted by the EWPTO. Funded by the Keane Foundation Grant. More details to come.

October 9

Columbus Day, No School

October 10

Cyber Seminar for Staff and Parents 3:05 – 4:35 p.m. at Emerson-Williams

October 12

EWPTO Meeting 7 p.m. in the EW Upper Media Center

October 13

Movie Night hosted by EWPTO and Madres Latinas of Wethersfield. More details to come.

October 13-15

Cove Side Carnival at the Wethersfield Cove Side Park. Sponsored by the Keane Foundation.

2017-2018 PTO MEETINGS

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

September 21, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 19, May 10, and June 7

Get To Know... The Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Board



I'm Colleen Mattatall, the 2nd Year Co-President of EWPTO. I'm mother to Nolan, 2nd grade and Emily, age 4. I love to cook complex meals and eat interesting foods. I'm the world's okayest golfer (I try to golf once a week). I once got a jaywalking ticket (\$78, but I fought it in court and was reduced to \$34). I'm an avid reader. I love Emerson-Williams Elementary School's the enthusiasm and warmth of the staff. I am passionate about EWPTO because it's a rewarding experience to help the school in big and small ways. It's a wonderful way to get to know other like-minded parents and to get to know the staff on a personal level. I truly feel like part of the Emerson-Williams team and I feel like I am making a positive impact in my child's experience at school.



I'm Autumn Struk, the 1st Year Co-President of EWPTO. I'm mother to Tatum, 5th grade, and Gavin 2nd grade. I'm a full-time work-at-home mom (sometimes 50 hour work weeks) who loves making people smile and making people happy. Our family has a bucket list that we try to keep updated and continuously check things off! The most amazing item we've had the experience of thus far was being a Surrogate Family where we were able to help another family have a baby! My husband, Jeff Struk, is very supportive and is my rock! Our family has a German Shepherd whose name is Hunter. In my free-time (what free time!?!?! - I love sitting on the back porch and reading a good book. I love Emerson-Williams because coming here only three years ago after moving from Manchester, CT - EW staff and teachers were so amazingly welcoming. Since then, the friendliness and continuous want to make the school better has never faded! I love being a part of such an amazing community! I'm passionate about EWPTO because, to me, having a strong and welcoming Community is one of the most important things teachers, students and families need to ensure a successful learning environment. Being a part of EWPTO allows me to be a part of the Community we want to build for our children and school. It brings me so much happiness to know that we have an organization that wants nothing but the best for our Community and the smiles and thanks received lets you know that everyone is on the same page. EWPTO equals COMMUNITY to me and when children and adults experience a kind, loving environment - we all can only excel!!!



I'm Peping Dee, Jr., the Treasurer of EWPTO. I'm father to Isabel, 2nd grade. I was born and raised in the Philippines. I immigrated to the U.S. in 1991, and consider myself fortunate to have landed here in Wethersfield, CT. I love this town. I am a running enthusiast, and I enjoy travel and photography. I love Emerson-Williams Elementary School because we have such great teachers and staff. You can tell that they are passionate about instilling a lifelong love for learning in each of the students. I'm passionate about serving in the EWPTO because it is a great way to contribute to the school community. You can see the results of the volunteers' hard work throughout the school, in many forms--new playgrounds, books for the media center, new cold water dispensers, painted Kindergarten area, just to name a few. Participating in the EWPTO allows me to show Isabel that volunteering is important and it makes a difference.

Get To Know... The Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO Board



I'm James Langdo, Secretary of EWPTO. I'm father to Brandon, 2nd grade. I went to many different schools as a kid in Southington CT, Coventry CT, Glasgow KY, and finally settling in Bolton, CT for 7 great school years. Education was very important to my parents. I have a BS and MS in Computer Science and working on an MBA. I am married to my wife Joanne and celebrating 10 years married this September. I have two dogs (Autumn and Sammy) and 3 cats (Lana, Chloe and Bailey). I am a big baseball fan (Boston Red Sox) and brought my son and nephew to the 2013 World Series, which unfortunately he does not remember. I love Emerson-Williams because it is a very caring school. I have not met one person that doesn't share that same love and care for the kids. Each of my son's teachers and all staff members that he has encountered since starting in 2015 have been phenomenal. They have made a great impression on him and he loves going to school. This is very important in the early grades and EW has developed this early love of school. I'm passionate about EWPTO because growing up in Bolton Connecticut, their PTO sponsored many great events that I always looked for to each school year. Now as a parent, I want my son and his classmates to enjoy and look forward to similar events. I only have one son and will have one chance to see him enjoying those same events, so it's important to get involved in the PTO and help fellow parents make these events happen. I also work with many PTO Moms and a few PTO Dads. As only one of a few PTO Dads, my son will see that Dads can also get involved in the PTO. EWPTO is a great way for the parents to meet other EW parents and for the kids to meet other kids. Considering that most EW kids will go from Kindergarten through 6th grade that is a considerable amount of time to get to know other families. My son has been invited to not only school events but outside events (birthday parties, play dates, etc.) due to getting to know other families from the PTO.

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.

The screenshot shows the website interface with a navigation bar at the top containing: Home, General Info/Forms, Calendar/Events, Get Involved, Contact Us, Digital Backpack, Tiger Topics, and Other Resources. The main content area is divided into three sections:

- Committee News:** A post titled "Support Emerson-Williams PTO through Amazon Smile. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates." Below it, directions to change your AmazonSmile charitable organization can be found [here](#).
- Emerson-Williams Elementary Facebook Page:** A preview of the Facebook page with 407 likes and a post from 5 hours ago. The post text reads: "The PTO has teamed up with Madres Latinas of Wethersfield to bring you two fun Latin-inspired events this fall. First is Zumba! Mixing exercise with Latin-style dancing is a fun exciting way to get moving! This event is made possible by Keane Foundation. See how to sign up below!"
- Navigation Buttons:** A vertical column of buttons on the right side:
 - Emerson-Williams PTO Facebook Page (with Like and Share buttons)
 - New Parents Information (with a tiger icon)
 - PTO Membership Drive (with a HELP! sign icon)
 - PTO Email Distribution List (with an envelope icon)
 - EW Student Phone Book (with a phone icon)
 - Room Parents Volunteers (with a group of hands icon)

EWPTO Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register to be a member of EWPTO?

You can register anytime by choosing which level of membership you'd like to have on our web page PTO Membership Drive button on the right navigation bar. Complete the form and return it to school. Visit us at www.ewpto.com.

When are the EWPTO meetings?

EWPTO meetings are generally held the second Thursday of each month, September through June, at 7pm in the upper Media Center at Emerson-Williams Elementary School. These meetings are open to all of the school community. **We hope to see you there!**

What goes on at EWPTO meetings?

We discuss, learn about, and help plan upcoming school events, vote on any purchases that need to be made, listen to teacher requests and guest speakers, and get to know other Emerson -Williams parents, teachers, and staff.

If I am unable to attend the PTO meetings, but I still want to be involved, can I still join and volunteer in some way?

There are still plenty of ways to get involved! Whether it's giving financially, giving of your time, or making suggestions on ways to help Emerson-Williams Elementary, WE NEED YOU, so please join today and explore the rest of the website to find out more about how you can help. Please feel free to contact any of our Board members if you have any questions - we are here to help!

Do you have to be a parent of a student to volunteer for EWPTO? Can grandparents, family friends, etc. volunteer?

We welcome anyone to volunteer for the PTO who shares the common goal of advancing Emerson-Williams Elementary.

What are PTO membership funds used for?

Annually, EWPTO funds support school assemblies, enrichment programs for every grade, teacher wish list program, technology improvements, and fun family events, such as Strawberry Festival, Dinner and Music on the Lawn, Bingo Night, Movie Night, and much, much more.

Why should I register as a member of EWPTO?

Being a member of EWPTO helps you stay connected. It's a great way to discover resources through our many programs. Of course, a large function of the PTO is fundraising. As an important part of what we do, these fundraising efforts provide curriculum-based programs, technology improvements, and community events. In addition, the PTO strives to play a supportive role to teachers and staff in the classroom and through appreciation events. All of these are vital to our school's and students' success.

Being a PTO member also provides opportunities to meet and support teachers and other parents. Through that, you can develop relationships that let you share ideas, concern, and experiences allowing a more effective way to influence positive change at our school. By getting involved, you'll be part of solutions. Only PTO members can vote on PTO issues. And, as a PTO member, you will be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education and open communication. **We hope you'll register with EWPTO today!**

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CHP Certified Homeownership Professional

Thank you to our wonderful Sponsors for their tax deductible donations to the EWPTO!

Do you own a business? Place your ad here! Email tigertopics@ewpto.com for more info.



What is a Room Parent?:

Room parents gain insight into what their child's teacher's needs are and assist accordingly.

A Room Parent assists with:

- Coordinate parent volunteers for classroom events/activities
- Organize Teacher Appreciation Week gifts/Holiday gifts
- Solicit Strawberry Festival raffle basket donations for the class
- Additional opportunities as they arise during year

A Room Parent should:

- Delegate and encourage other parents/guardians and their family to help
- Maintain a positive morale and attitude towards other parents
- Communicate with the classroom parents to keep them informed
- Share PTO information with parents as it becomes available

How can I volunteer?:

- Complete and return the below interest slip to your child's teacher or go to ewpto.com and click the 'Room Parent Volunteers' button on the right navigation bar by September 15.***
- The EWPTO Room Parents Committee will contact you if selected; there are usually 2-3 Room Parents per classroom.
- For further details, email the Room Parents Committee at roomparents.committee@ewpto.com

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Please Return by September 15 to your child's teacher.

YES, I want to be an Emerson-Williams Room Parent!

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Student Name: _____

Student's Teacher & Grade: _____



*Donate **DIRECTLY** to the PTO and guiltlessly abstain from all PTO fund raisers! The donated money is a **DIRECT DONATION** and is tax deductible!*

Fundraising is crucial to our PTO as it helps bring great programs to our school for ALL students. See chart below for donation levels and tokens of thanks for each level of giving. All donation amounts are welcome.

Amount	Benefits
\$10	Family Membership of PTO
\$25	Bronze Member of PTO; receive one car magnet
\$50	Silver Member of PTO; receive one car magnet and one reusable shopping bag
\$100	Gold Member of PTO; receive one car magnet; one reusable shopping bag & one RAFFLE entry for a \$100 Target Giftcard

Being a “Member” of the PTO allows you to vote at PTO meetings as well as know you are supporting a worthy cause and enhancing your child’s experience at Emerson-Williams Elementary School.

Last year the PTO brought these wonderful things to our school:

Family fun events: BINGO, Gingerbread House Decorating, School Dance, Strawberry Festival, Yard Goats game, Holiday Store, Vendor Fair

School assemblies: Signature Project, John Steven Guerny, Hip-Hop Program, High Touch-High Tech.

Teacher Purchases: The PTO paid for some amazing classroom enhancements: Heart-Rate monitor system to be used in PE Class, New book set for each of the Grade 1 classrooms, Exploration Tub items for each Kindergarten classroom, supporting school-wide bookclub AND 10 copies of each Nutmeg Book Award nominee for the school library (total 100 books)

Please provide the following information to receive your receipt with cash/check made out to EWPTO by 9/22:

Family name (all adults in family) _____

Student name: _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Donation amount: _____

****Remember this is a tax deductible donation. You will receive a receipt for this donation which can be used for Corporate Donation Match programs****

Ask your employer if they match donations to Non-Profit Organizations such as the Emerson-Williams PTO



Madres Latinas de Wethersfield

In partnership with the Emerson Williams PTO, brings you

ZUMBA for Children and Adults!

Saturday, September 23rd

Emerson Williams Elementary

461 Wells Road

Zumba for Kids

Ages 6 to 12

1:30 to 2pm (1 pm Registration)

\$5 for children, \$7 for parents

Adult Zumba

2:30pm-3:30pm (2 pm Registration)

\$15 for adults

Pre pay for any part of the event via Eventbrite (w/a small fee)

This program was made possible by a grant from the
Richard M. Keane Foundation www.keanefoundation.org





Emerson-Williams PTO Presents



INTERNET SAFETY

for parents and educators

URGENT !!!!

***Our children (k-6) are involved in
activites you do not know about!***



**Workshop with Scott Driscoll
of Internet Safety Concepts**



- Apps and programs children are using
- Cyberbullying, sexting and social networking
- Creating a “digital footprint”
- Current on-line trends and potential dangers
- Tips on how to use technology in the safest way
- Strategies on keeping families safe

October 10, 2017 3:05 pm - 4:35 pm
Emerson-Williams School
Adults only!!!

EW PTO Student Phone Book / Directory



Every year, the EW PTO prints a **STUDENT PHONE BOOK** exclusive for EW families! It's a great way to make friends, connect with your child's classmates for birthday parties and play dates, and allows room parents to keep in touch with you!

There are 2 ways to sign up to have your contact info (address, phone number, and/or email - **you choose what info you want to share which will be used for our printed phone book ONLY!**)

1. Go to our website **www.ewpto.com**. Click on the link for **Student Phone Book** to provide your information.
2. Or you can fill out this form and return to school with our child!

Deadline for signing up is Friday Sept 15, 2017.

Please **PRINT CLEARLY** your information on this form allowing us to include in the EW Student Phone Book!

Parent(s) Name: _____

Parent(s) Address: _____

Parent(s) Email address: _____

Parent(s) Phone Number: _____

Name of Student #1: _____ Student #1 Teacher: _____

Name of Student #2: _____ Student #2 Teacher: _____

Name of Student #3: _____ Student #3 Teacher: _____

DON'T MISS OUT on being included!

SAVE THE DATE

EMERSON-WILLIAMS 1ST EVER

COLOR RUN

A FREE FAMILY EVENT THANKS TO THE KEANE FOUNDATION GRANT!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH 10:30AM-12:30AM

**MORE INFO
TO COME
SOON!!**



Advertise with Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO is offering TWO ways for local businesses to advertise:

Address Directory: For **\$50**, you can place a business card sized space (3.5" wide x 2" high) in our 2017-2018 address directory. The address directory is a paper 'book' that distributed to ALL Emerson-Williams families at the beginning of the year

Monthly Newsletter: For **\$50** you can place a business card sized space (3.5" x 2" high) in our newsletter called Tiger Topics (same ad each month). Tiger Topics is distributed in paper and posted on Facebook and loaded onto our website each month (minimum 5 issues per year)

OR for \$100 you can do both!

Please complete the bottom of this form and return it with your payment (checks made payable to EWPTO) and print-ready artwork **NO LATER THAN Friday, September 15, 2017.**

If you prefer to e-mail your artwork, you may send it to address.directory@ewpto.com or fmastr9@cox.net Questions? Call Fran Schwarzhaupt (860)305-9898 Thank you!

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Yes, I would like to advertise in the 2017-2018 Emerson-Williams Address Directory!

Business Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact E-Mail: _____

Please check one:

- Attached is my payment of \$50.00 to advertise in student directory **ONLY**
- Attached is my payment of \$50.00 to advertise in Tiger Topics, the monthly newsletter **ONLY**
- Attached is my payment of \$100.00 to advertise in **BOTH** student directory and Tiger Topics newsletter

Attach your print-ready artwork or business card- do not clip, tape or staple

or

EMAIL the 3.5" wide x 2" high) print-ready artwork to address.directory@ewpto.com no later than September 15, 2017.

Payment: Cash or check payable to EWPTO can be mailed to Student Directory Committee, E-W Elementary School PTO, 461 Wells Rd, Wethersfield, CT 06109