

## Tiger Topics Newsletter, September 2016

### Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Co-President:** Darka Jara, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Co-President:** Colleen Mattatall, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent

**Secretary:** James Langdo, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent

**Treasurer:** Peping Dee, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent



### Upcoming Events

#### September 22

Dinner on the E-W Lawn, 5pm

#### September 26

Yankee Candle Fundraiser due date

#### September 29

School Picture Day, by Ted Morton Photography

#### October 3 - 14

EW Logo Apparel Sale

#### October 5

Walk To School Day

#### October 21

Tentative Date for Family Movie Night

#### October 27

Jumpstart's Read For The Record

### From the Desk of the EW PTO Co-Presidents

Dear Emerson Williams Community,

September is always a month of reorganization for us. It's that wonderful time of year when schedules resume and extra-curricular activities start up again. All things fall back into place. Our PTO is the very same way! We have some wonderful new ideas for this year and some rock star parents stepping up to fill roles! We are implementing a family fun committee, a school beautification committee, funding some assemblies, and offering the wish list program to our teachers and staff again this year. We are so excited for all of the wonderful September and October events: Scholastic Book Fair (9/12-16), Dinner on the Lawn (9/22), School Pictures 9/29 (already?), walk to school day (10/5) keep an eye out for a EW Scarecrow on Main Street in Old Wethersfield and enjoy the pumpkins and pumpkin spice flavored everything!

Welcome back,

Colleen Mattatall and Darka Jara

Co-Presidents, EW PTO

### 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](http://www.ewpto.com) and on the right, click on



### 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

[www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com), Webmaster: Chrissy Pikos  
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## From the Desk of the Principal

By Ms. Neela Thakur, Principal

At Emerson-Williams Elementary School, we are having an awesome start to our school year. Our teachers are pleased with students' performance on both the SBAC, as well as their performance on the Grade Five Science CMT. For SBAC, Emerson-Williams students made wonderful gains this school year compared to last school year. For the Grade Five Science CMT, Emerson-Williams students performed above the district average. This good news has given our teachers the confidence and encouragement to keep up with the great work they have been doing in their classrooms, and take some professional risks to think outside of the box for this current 2016 - 2017 school year to improve student performance even more.

Our teachers are on board and excited about our three district School Improvement Plan goals: Academic, Problem Solving, and Civic. A large portion of our August Professional Development Meeting time was spent brainstorming (by grade level) how best to incorporate civic learning into the current academic program. Our EW teachers came up with so many important and creative ideas! I am looking forward to seeing how these great ideas unfold throughout the course of the school year. With the systematic development of all three district goals - Academic, Problem Solving, and Civic - there will be a school-wide emphasis at EW this year to explore the Growth Mindset psychology with both students and parents...and ourselves as educators!

I am looking forward to a great school year with you and your children!

## 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.

## Emerson-Williams Fun Facts

School Colors: Orange and Royal Blue

Mascot: Stripes the Tiger



## EW Tiger Roars – Thank you!

A BIG EW Tiger Roar of Thanks going out to:

**Chrissy Pikos** for updating the EW PTO website for 2016-17. Chrissy was recently recognized by Family Liaison within Wethersfield Public Schools for being a trailblazer for 'best practices' for PTO communication.

**Colleen Mattatall** and the Future Projects Committee for organizing the EW PTO's donation of the K/1 playscape.

**Darka Jara** and all EW Parents that helped the Cheer/Teacher Appreciation Committee organize the Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon.

**James Langdo** for creating a Dropbox system for PTO Committee file sharing and event tracking. And for sending a condolence card to the parents of Gianna Petrella, a former EW student and shadow teacher, who passed away in July, and a Get Well card for Ms. Fox who broke her arm.

**Christen Sousa, Autumn Struk, & Stephanie Conashevick** for updating the school bulletin boards in the hallways. They look fabulous!

**Leslie Williams** for her hard work researching school assemblies and helping with the new Committee Chairperson packets.

## Tiger Topics Health Tips

By Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to all!



### REMINDER to all sixth grade parents/students:

All students must complete the necessary health assessment and required immunizations prior to **JUNE 1, 2017**. ***If you had a physical this summer, hand it in NOW. Students will not have their records transferred to the middle school if this is not complete.*** If you need the blue State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment form, it can be found on the PTO website or I will be happy to send you one.

We have several children with nut allergies this year. In order to keep these children safe, we have decided to make **ALL CLASSROOMS NUT FREE**. Please refer to the letter sent home regarding this. Again, this does not affect lunch, only the classroom. Please be sure not to send items with nuts for snacks.

All children should be in school when they are well, but trying to decide if they are well enough can be a difficult task. We all know they can wake up feeling one way and an hour later feel another way. The goal is to have your child in school, ready to learn; but prevent the transmission of illness to classmates and staff.

### Here are some guidelines to follow:

- A child with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater should not be in school.
- Students should be fever-free **for 24 hours**, without the aid of **TYLENOL OR MOTRIN**, before returning to school.
- If a child vomits; they must be free of symptoms for **24 hours**, before returning to school.
- Students with excessive secretions from coughing, sneezing, or runny nose should be kept home to prevent the transmission of illness to others.
- Students diagnosed with Strep throat, by a throat culture, must be on antibiotics for **24 hours** before returning to school.
- For headaches, stomach aches, and sore throats, the decision to send your child to school should be based on your child's ability to focus on his/her class work and learn.

Thank you for keeping our school community healthy.

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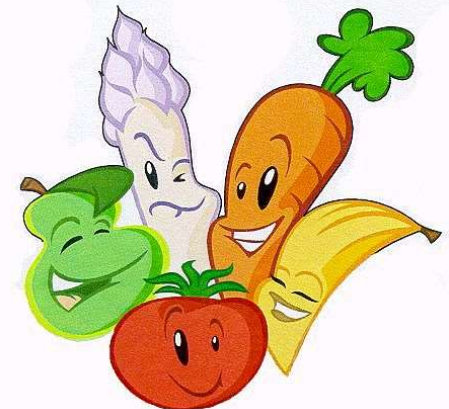


## Tiger Snack Tips

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.

- A whole apple, pre-sliced and completely held together with a rubber band.
- Pretzels and Hummus
- Yogurt
- Carrot Sticks and Ranch Dip
- Fruit Salad
- Dried Apple Rings or Cranberries
- Watermelon slices

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](mailto:tigertopics@ewpto.com) for publication in our next newsletter.



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## Tiger Topics – Monthly Spotlight Article



### Emerson-Williams Elementary School New K/1 Playground

By Colleen Mattatall, Future Projects Committee Chairperson

I ask a lot of questions. My son gets it from me, I'm afraid. So, in Fall 2015, when I inquired on the plans for the EW PTO bank money, I was told the K/1 playground might need to be replaced 'sometime'. Well, I HAD to dig deeper.

In my research, I discovered our playground was 17 years old and, generally, playgrounds have a lifespan of 20 years. Our current playground was bought by EW PTO! Mary Lacy, of the EW Main Office, helped build it when her children attended EW! I also learned the town inspects playgrounds every year and can either shut-down or condemn a playground for safety reasons.

Was our playground on its last legs? Could we have a decade more left in it? Who knows? I started wondering, how much do playgrounds cost? How long does it take to build? Who needs to be part of this process? And, as a result, the EW PTO formed a Future Projects committee. The committee reached out to 4 different playground companies and received 10 different playscape quotes. As a committee, we decided on one of the quotes and the color scheme. We researched grant money and entered ourselves in a few contests to win a playground. Sadly, we didn't win those grants or contests.

On April 7, 2016, the EW PTO unanimously approved the spending of up to \$40,000 on this playground. I was elated. We were halfway there! At that point, we needed formal approval from the entire town, basically. Parks and Recreation approval included the Town Engineer, Grounds Keepers, Director, Assistant Director, and the TREE WARDEN (yes, kind of like the Lorax)! The Board of Education, then Town Council, then Planning & Zoning Committee, and then AGAIN Town Council all needed to approve or vote for this project. PHEW!

Once we received final approval, we moved forward to buying and building! We had to prepare the land, build in drainage, prepare a flat space, create a border and connect the playground to the flattop with a wood fiber path. We also needed to think about celebrating this wonderful addition to our town and community! We hosted a 'Ribbon Cutting Ceremony' on August 30, 2016 to celebrate its completion. It was wonderful! And, on the first day of school, the children enjoyed this wonderful donation made by the EW PTO. Thank you to every person who played a part in this project, for those who ran fundraisers, bought fundraiser products, attended events and/or meetings, and everyone in between. What a gift we are giving to our children! Enjoy!



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## 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

### Board of Education Liason

EW PTO is looking for interested people (or person) to attend the Board of Education meetings the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Wethersfield Town Hall Chambers room and report at PTO meetings what the Board of Education is reporting on. If you would like to volunteer, please go to [ewpto.com/committees.html](http://ewpto.com/committees.html) and sign up today!

### 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 first meeting is October 3 at 9:30am at the Stillman Building. If you are interested, please sign up for the WSPC committee at [ewpto.com/committees.html](http://ewpto.com/committees.html).

## Reminders

### Address Directory

Please remember to submit your information for the Address Directory (a school 'phone book') by going to [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) and clicking on School Directory and Room Parents button on the right. If you would like to advertise in the Address Directory, the cost is \$50 for a business card sized ad. For more information, please contact [address.directory@ewpto.com](mailto:address.directory@ewpto.com). The deadline is Friday, September 23, 2016.

### From the Music Department

Ms. Caravella, our instrumental music teacher, has developed a website for parents to get updates on their child's instrumental activities at [www.emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com](http://www.emersonwilliamsbandstrings.weebly.com). Parents of children not currently in the instrumental music program can find music department information there and are welcome to reach out to Ms. Caravella with any questions at [ecaravella@wethersfield.me](mailto:ecaravella@wethersfield.me). Instrumental begins in Grade 4.



## 2016-2017 EW PTO Meeting Schedule

7:00 p.m.

EW Upper Media Center

October 13  
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.

# Community






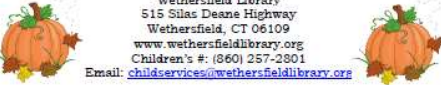
## Madres Latinas

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 say 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, October 12, November 9, or December 14, 2016. Madres are currently working on: hosting a Spanish Story Hour, launching a Spanish Language Afterschool Program, Hispanic Heritage Month, and a scarecrow for Scarecrows on Main Street in Old Wethersfield. For more information contact: [madreslatinawethersfield@gmail.com](mailto:madreslatinawethersfield@gmail.com)

## Wethersfield Public Library

**Autumn 2016 Literacy Classes @  
WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY - CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT  
September 19<sup>th</sup> - November 20<sup>th</sup>**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>11:00am</b> ★ <b>Mother Goose Time</b> <b>Birth-21 months</b></p> <p>Stimulating lapsit program. Includes sharing board books, nursery rhymes &amp; bouncing games. <b>Parent participation is key!</b></p>  <p><b>6:00pm-7:30pm</b> ★ <b>FAMILY PLACE</b> <b>Play &amp; Grow: Parent-Child Workshop</b> <b>Birth-3 years</b></p> <p>9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/24</p> <p>Each week, families can enjoy a stimulating, educational, and fun place to play &amp; visit with resource professionals who will answer questions and provide information about a variety of parenting topics.</p> 	<p><b>10:30am-12:00pm</b> ★ <b>FAMILY PLACE</b> <b>Play &amp; Grow: Parent-Child Workshop</b> <b>Birth-3 years</b></p> <p>9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, 10/25</p> <p>Each week, families can enjoy a stimulating, educational, and fun place to play &amp; visit with resource professionals who will answer questions and provide information about a variety of parenting topics.</p> <p><b>6:30pm (monthly)</b> ★ <b>Book Bites!</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders</b> 10/4, 11/15, 12/13</p> <p>Explore the Elementary Nutmeg Nominees with snacks, crafts &amp; fun activities!</p> <p><b>6:30pm (monthly)</b> ★ <b>Pizza &amp; Pages</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders</b></p> <p>Nutmeg Award Book Discussion Series with a light supper.</p> <p>9/27 <i>The Boundless</i> by Kenneth Oppel 11/1 <i>Masterminds</i> by Gordon Korman 12/6 <i>Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library</i> by Chris Grabenstein</p>	<p><b>10:30am</b> ★ <b>Books! Books! Books! Books!</b> <b>3-5 year olds</b></p> <p>This program is designed to help develop pre-reading skills and to enjoy theme based stories, fingerplays, songs &amp; games.</p> 	<p><b>10:30am</b> ★ <b>Wee Read</b> <b>22-35 months</b></p> <p>Exciting program where toddlers begin to appreciate longer stories &amp; participate in group activities. <b>Parent participation is key!</b></p>  <p><b>6:00pm</b> ★ <b>Building STEAM</b> <b>5-7 year olds</b></p> <p>Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math through fun activities.</p> 	<p><b>10:00am-12:00pm</b> <b>Playtime/ Short &amp; Sweet Storytime</b></p> <p>Drop-in family fun. A story and song will be shared <b>@ 10:45am</b> <b>(NO registration required)</b></p> 	<p><b>10:00am-3:00pm</b> <b>Fandom Fun!</b></p> <p>Drop-in any time between 10am-3pm any Saturday of the month to complete activities based on popular characters or brands.</p> <p><b>September</b> 9/10, 9/17/ 9/24 Pokemon</p> <p><b>October</b> 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29 LEGO®</p> <p><b>November</b> 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26 Diary of a Wimpy Kid &amp; Lion Guard</p>
				<p><b>Registration begins for Wethersfield residents:</b> *Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> IN PERSON OR BY PHONE</p> <p><b>Registration begins for nonresidents:</b> *Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> IN PERSON OR BY PHONE</p> <p>*A valid library card is needed to register for all programs.</p> <p>*Classes are planned to meet the developmental needs and interests of targeted age groups. Children must meet the age requirement specified for each program by start of session.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">             Wethersfield Library              515 Sias Deane Highway              Wethersfield, CT 06109  <a href="http://www.wethersfieldlibrary.org">www.wethersfieldlibrary.org</a>              Children's #: (860) 257-2801              Email: <a href="mailto:childservices@wethersfieldlibrary.org">childservices@wethersfieldlibrary.org</a> </p> 	

★ Starred programs require registration ★

## Community continued...

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## Wethersfield Schools Parent Council (WSPC)

The WSPC is a town wide parent group that works to improve Wethersfield Public Schools through communication, coordination, and advocacy. WSPC parent volunteers include two or more representatives from each school who meet regularly for the benefit of all Wethersfield students.

The Goals of the WSPC are to unify and strengthen local parent teacher groups by facilitating the exchange of information and to encourage working together to achieve common goals, to develop among parents, educators, town government and the Wethersfield community, a united effort to secure for all children and youth, the greatest opportunities in physical, mental and social education, and to coordinate advocacy on appropriate issues that affect the quality of education and well-being of children in the town of Wethersfield.

For more information, please visit the web site at [www.wspc-ct.org](http://www.wspc-ct.org) or email [wspc.contact@gmail.com](mailto:wspc.contact@gmail.com).



Wethersfield Elementary Schools PTO  
and  
The Keane Foundation present:

**MOVIE NIGHT**

*You are invited!*

**September 30, 2016**  
Broad Street Green  
5:30 pm – Bring Your Own Picnic with DJ and Games  
Dusk – Movie Time!

**minions**

Save the Date!!

The poster features a large black silhouette of a movie camera on the left. In the center, the text 'MOVIE NIGHT' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the date 'September 30, 2016' and location 'Broad Street Green' are listed. The time '5:30 pm' is followed by 'Bring Your Own Picnic with DJ and Games' and 'Dusk – Movie Time!'. At the bottom, the word 'minions' is written in a stylized, rounded font. To the right of the text, there are illustrations of a movie camera, a bucket of popcorn, a drink with a straw, and three Minion characters. A black banner with white text 'Save the Date!!' is in the top right corner. The Keane Foundation logo is in the top left.

## Scarecrows on Main

Thank you so much to EW parent volunteers, Amy Gallagher-Cuadras, Johnna Kulpa, and Monika Shoham, for organizing an Emerson-Williams Scarecrow on Main. They created three school-centric scarecrow concepts and our EW teachers have voted. The theme for the 21st Annual Scarecrow Contest is Emerson-Williams' School Values: Respect, Responsibility, and Safety! This fun Fall event runs from Saturday, September 24 through Sunday, October 23, 2016 and features dozens of scarecrows that line Main Street in the business district of Old Wethersfield. If you are interested in helping with our EW Scarecrow, please contact Amy Gallagher-Cuadras at [amygallagher84@yahoo.com](mailto:amygallagher84@yahoo.com).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

5:00PM-7:00PM

**THE EW PTO INVITES YOU TO  
DINNER & MUSIC ON THE LAWN  
AT EMERSON-WILLIAMS**



Bring some chairs, blankets, family and friends to hear **The Rents** play again for our EW community. If you missed them last time, they are an alternative rock band playing covers and original music - featuring EW parents! Don't miss this great family night out – welcoming everyone back to school!

An exciting new local food truck will be grilling delicious chicken, meat and vegetables kabobs! So if you don't have time to pack a picnic dinner, no problem. Drinks and desserts are also available for purchase (cash or credit cards accepted).

**SHISH  
KABOB A'LICIOUS**

*10% of all profits will be donated to the EW PTO!*

[Follow them on Twitter](#) [Like them on Facebook](#) [Visit them online](#)

Please no animals at the event, and all children should be supervised by an adult. If you have questions, please email [dinnertawn@ewpto.com](mailto:dinnertawn@ewpto.com).





**WE WANT YOU!**

**To Advertise in our Student Directory**

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO is offering advertising space to local businesses in our address directory. The address directory is distributed to ALL 408 students.

For \$50, you can place a business card sized space (3.5” wide x 2” high) in our 2016-2017 address directory.

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 Thursday, September 23, 2016.**

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

----- Cut Here -----

**Yes, I would like to advertise in the 2016-2017 E-W Address Directory!**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Attached is my payment of \$50.00 and my business card sized (3.5” wide x 2” high) print-ready artwork (please attach in an envelope - do not clip, tape or staple).

or ...

Attached is my payment of \$50.00 and I will be e-mailing my business card sized (3.5” wide x 2” high) print-ready artwork to [address.directory@ewpto.com](mailto:address.directory@ewpto.com) no later than September, 23, 2016.

**Payment:** Cash or check payable to EW PTO delivered via the back pack or mailed to Student Directory Committee, E-W Elementary School PTO, 461 Wells Rd, Wethersfield, CT 06109

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