



# Tiger Topics

*School Newsletter*

# EMERSON-WILLIAMS

## From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

We had a successful start to school as we welcomed back 440 students and several new staff members. The new staff members are:

- Mrs. Byrne – Special Education teacher for grades 4-6; Mrs. Byrne transferred from Wethersfield High School
- Mrs. Dawson – Kindergarten (Mrs. Dawson was the kindergarten teacher at Emerson-Williams for the 2010-2011 school year)
- Mrs. Duffy – School Social Worker
- Mr. Peterson – Curriculum Specialist
- Mrs. Thomas – Grade 6
- Ms. Shea – Kindergarten

Many of you had an opportunity to meet the new staff at our Open House during the second week of school. Also, during the second week of school, we held our annual opening assembly on Wednesday, September 5. At this assembly we introduced our school theme of **Respect, Responsibility and Safety**. All of our rules and behavioral expectations fall under these three concepts. We also discussed the need to be kind to others. The students were very receptive to this message.

Families in grades 4-6 should have received their child's Connecticut Mastery Test results in the mail. Emerson-Williams scores (percent **at or above goal**) are as follows:

	Math	Reading	Writing	Science
Grade 3	83.1	65.5	80.3	N/A
Grade 4	77.6	73.1	64.8	N/A
Grade 5	75.7	65.5	72.6	68.5
Grade 6	86.5	79.2	66.7	N/A

More detailed information can be found at [CTReports.com](http://CTReports.com). If you have any questions in regard to your child's CMT results, please contact his or her teacher, or you can discuss this at the Parent-Teacher conference in October. I will present an overview of our scores at the October PTO meeting.

I am looking forward to a successful school year for your child.

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# PTO Highlights

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The 2012-2013 school year is off to a great start! After a fun filled summer the students are back in the routines of school, all day kindergarten is in full swing, and the PTO is ready to lead the way in helping parents support the school in educating our children.

It was a busy first two weeks. Open House provided parents the opportunity to get a feel for the daily happenings in their children's classrooms. The Book Fair offered the chance to purchase some books to encourage your child to read. Thank you to all that came out to shop at the Book Fair. Your purchase provides funds that enable the PTO to accomplish its goals.

Our first PTO meeting was Thursday night. Prior to the meeting, we had a brief Orientation to help parents new to the PTO become familiar with what we do. We welcomed a dozen new faces! We would love to see even more people at our next meeting. The more active and involved our parents are, the more we can do for our kids! Please join us. PTO meetings are generally the second Thursday of the month. Check our website, [www.EWPTO.com](http://www.EWPTO.com), for confirmation of dates and times.

The PTO continues to need volunteers! We have many committees that don't have any chairs, as well as committees that could use more members. In order to meet our goals this year, we need you! If you could find some time to help we would appreciate it. The easiest way to get involved is to go to our website and click on the "2 Hour Power Pledge" graphic on the lower left of our home page. This will open up a short form that you can fill out. Once we have your information, we will match you up with a PTO activity that suits you.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year. If you have any questions about the PTO or how you can get involved, don't hesitate to contact either of us!

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



## Babysitters Needed

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Calling all E-W families that have High Schoolers: If your students need to pick up some community service time, we have an opportunity for them! Every month we need three babysitters for our PTO meetings. Responsibilities include monitoring school aged children during the meeting and ensuring that the classroom that is used gets left exactly as we found it! To get put on the schedule, please contact Martin Malicki at [immal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:immal@sbcglobal.net) or 860-529-0326.

## Mark Your Calendars!

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- Picture Day: Thursday, September 20
- Turn in Innisbrook Fundraiser: September 27
- Spirit Day - Favorite Team Sports: September 28
- Sixth Grade Committee meeting: November 1
- Holiday Store/ Vendor Night: November 27
- Talent Show: April 5

### 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/page.cfm?p=1643>

### 2012-2013 PTO Meeting Schedule

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

# Golf Outing Recap

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The 3rd Annual PTO Golf Tournament was held this year at Blue Fox Run in Avon, CT. The course was in very good condition, while pin placements were challenging for most of the golfers. The day was cut short due to severe weather shortly before the first 9 holes were completed, but we enjoyed an early dinner and bountiful raffle. Noteworthy prizes were food and retail gift cards/gift certificates, a hot air balloon ride, four Disney Hopper passes, a Toshiba tablet, and a 40" LCD flat screen television. Despite the shortened golf event, the Golf Committee and Blue Fox Run worked out a complimentary 18-hole round of golf at Blue Fox Run for all 76 golfers. Thank you to Barry Wilson, the Blue Fox Run Manager, and our committee member negotiators!

The committee successfully grew this year's golfer field and ensured the participants had an exciting, challenging event and some very nice take home goodies. Golfers walked away with an Emerson-Williams Golf Polo sponsored by Rosenberg Orthodontics, as well as a collapsible cooler with balls, tees, ball repair piece, and ball marker. Also tucked into the bags was a \$10 off coupon to Golfers Warehouse. We raised close to \$3,500 to go exclusively to our playground fund. Special thanks to all of our sponsors and local restaurants that donated so generously to our raffle. Please take a moment to view our sponsors on the Golf section of ewpto.com and in Tiger Topics. In appreciation for their continuous giving, please consider them when an applicable need arises.

Special thanks to committee members, including Jackie LaPerriere, Lauren Barbara, Sherri Helget, Donnelle Bowers, Martin Malicki, John & Amber Kiniry, Andrea & Greg Ginter, and Mike McKenna. Their dedicated support and teamwork has allowed our event to grow and succeed in its three years of existence.

We are planning the 2013 Golf Tournament, and a save the date reminder will be noted in a future edition of Tiger Topics. I am hoping to increase the field to more than 90 golfers next year with the goal of surpassing \$5,500 in fundraising. We welcome all Emerson-Williams families and relatives (including children) to this fun event. I hope to see you in 2013!

Paul LaPerriere  
Emerson-Williams PTO Golf Chairperson

# Holiday Store and Vendor Night

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Look for the Emerson Williams Vendor Night and student Holiday Store to be returning together again this year. The tentative date is November 27, 2012. Check next month's issue of Tiger Topics for more information. Please contact the committee chairs if you would like to take part in either event. We are in need of wrapping paper and gift bags; look for a donation bin across from the main office. Thank you!

Holiday Store Co-Chairs:  
Lauren Barbara  
[snl0617@att.net](mailto:snl0617@att.net)  
860-665-9448

Amber Kiniry  
[amberstark76@aol.com](mailto:amberstark76@aol.com)  
860-424-2144

Vendor Fair Co-Chairs:  
Alicia Schenkel  
[ajs24@cox.net](mailto:ajs24@cox.net)  
860-529-0611

Kathleen Peacock  
[mpeacock5@ymail.com](mailto:mpeacock5@ymail.com)  
860-461-8683



# Curriculum Special: Write Like a Reader

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Just as Readers Workshop promotes independent, thoughtful readers, Writers Workshop promotes independent, thoughtful writers. Students spend a majority of classroom time putting pencil to paper. They look to their own lives for inspiration in the writing process of drafting, revising, publishing and celebrating!

The workshop model was designed to promote real-life writing experiences for students. Children work through a basic format including an eight to ten minute mini-lesson. Then children get writing! During this drafting time students confer with the teacher or with peers to revise, edit and improve their piece. After the writing has been carefully crafted, the student polishes the piece, a step that may include typing or inserting pictures, to make it as strong as possible for final publication and celebration.

Writers Workshop is a time of independent work and collaboration. For example, students may receive a mini-lesson regarding how authors put dialog in their writing. The child then has an opportunity to look for places in his or her own writing where this technique may be applied. Students have approximately 40 minutes per session to write independently as the teacher confers with children individually. During these conferences the teacher follows through on the mini-lesson and provides personalized attention or additional small group instruction. The teacher can help the student attempt other techniques and considerations. The conference is often considered the “heart” of workshop. In addition, students use proofreaders’ eyes making certain that grammar and spelling is accurate. Children gain specific strategies that allow their piece to improve as it moves towards final publication while they build lifelong writing strategies. Furthermore, workshop time allows for students to share thoughts and ideas with other writers in the class.

All grade levels participate in Writers Workshop throughout the year. Following the launch of Writers Workshop, each student creates a personal narrative, studies a genre (such as fairy tales or myths), uses a professional author as a mentor, produces a nonfiction piece of writing, as well as delving into the world of poetry. Regardless of the genre, students are using their own experiences, interests and thoughts to create. Writers Workshop is authentic writing.

Encouraging writing at home does not always mean buying a special journal. Your student can create a grocery list, write a friendly letter to grandma or compose a paragraph describing all the reasons why you should increase his or her allowance! Real life makes real opportunities to write!

Pauline Greer  
Wethersfield District Curriculum Specialist



# Target: Help Us Help Our School

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There's an easy way to help us raise money for our school – for books, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding. It's called Take Charge of Education, and it's helping our school right now. It's great for you too! REDcard holders receive a 5% discount on purchases, and free shipping on Target.com orders.

Visit [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe) or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target® Visa® Credit Card, Target Credit Card® or Target Check Card®), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K–12 school of your choice.

Don't have a REDcard? Apply in person at any Target store or go to [Target.com/redcard](http://Target.com/redcard).



Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe).

## Labels for Education

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Labels for Education allows our school to earn free merchandise such as athletic, art, music and academic equipment. Just clip and save Labels for Education bar codes from products you use every day, then drop them in the Labels for Education box outside the main office.

Labels for Education products include Post, Pepperidge Farm, Campbell's, Dannon, Emerald, Pop Secret and Glad. Check out [Labelsforeducation.com](http://Labelsforeducation.com) for a comprehensive list of participating products.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koziol ([skoziol2011@hotmail.com](mailto:skoziol2011@hotmail.com) or 860-529-3562).

## Box Tops for Education

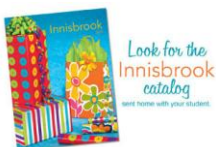
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Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for Emerson-Williams by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops also offers online ways to earn even more cash for Emerson-Williams.

Check out [www.btfе.com](http://www.btfе.com) for a list of participating products, as well as online earning opportunities.

## Fundraiser Reminder

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Please return your Innisbrook order by Thursday, September 27. In the pages of the Innisbrook catalogs you will find many high-quality products to choose from, including more than 80 products priced \$10 or less, and 115 products priced \$15 or less. Choose from many national brands including Harry & David and Ghirardelli. Innisbrook's premium heavy-weight gift wrap is 100% made in the USA and comes with grids printed on the back of standard rolls for easy cutting. Thank you for your participation!

# Sixth Grade Committee

The Sixth Grade Committee meeting will be held November 1 at 7 p.m. in the Upper Media Center.

Attention sixth grade parents! We are looking for the canvas used for the students' hand prints in kindergarten. If you have the canvas please contact Janet Vasel at [ajavasel@cox.net](mailto:ajavasel@cox.net) or 860-721-7090.



## EW Directory

Most forms went home with students populated with last year's Directory information in addition to the updated teacher for the current school year. Deadline for verifying/submitting student information has passed, some are still trickling in from certain classes. Businesses have until 9/25 to submit business card size ads for \$50 (Flyer: [http://www.ewpto.com/digitalbp/2012-09-10/Directory\\_Ad.pdf](http://www.ewpto.com/digitalbp/2012-09-10/Directory_Ad.pdf)). The Directory will be completed and distributed in the first couple weeks of October.

## Welcome Back Luncheon



The annual PTO Welcome Back luncheon was held Tuesday, August 28 in the cafeteria. Teachers and staff enjoyed a wonderful buffet and dessert contributed by parent volunteers.



At the luncheon, teachers wrote some advice to students on how to have a successful school year. Here's a sampling:

**Follow directions.**

**Wash your hands often.**

**Don't give up on tricky work.**

**Laugh a lot.**

*Look for more advice in future issues of Tiger Topics!*



Thanks to Cindy Augustine, Larissa Bashura, Sue Breglio, Stephanie Conashevik, Karen Dicenso, Rosanna D'Onofrio, Kim Fiorino, Andrea Ginter, Kristen Healy, Paula Heinzmann, Darka Jara, Michele Livingston, Martin Malicki, Peggy Santhouse, Laura Schneider, Beth Thompson, and Angela Tollis for their contributions of food, paper goods, beverages and time.



# Grocery Store Gift Cards

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Earlier this month, you received a flyer with information about purchasing grocery store gift cards. Without spending any extra money beyond what you are already spending on your grocery bills, you can help the PTO raise the funds we need to replace our playscape. The PTO will earn 8-11% profit on every gift card purchased, which may not sound like a lot, but it adds up fast! For example, if only 50 families commit to purchasing \$200 in gift cards per month (which is likely just a portion of your monthly grocery bill), the PTO could earn **\$11,000** in the course of just one year. WOW! Now just imagine what we could do if all our E-W families participate. Below are some frequently asked questions about the fundraising program.



## **For what stores can I purchase gift cards?**

We are currently selling gift cards for Stop & Shop, Price Chopper, Big Y and Shoprite. As a side note, you can use Stop & Shop gift cards when shopping with Peapod and you can use Shoprite gift cards at both Shoprite and Pricerite.

## **Can I get gift cards for other stores/restaurants?**

You can use your grocery store gift cards to purchase a variety of retailer gift cards at the grocery stores, expanding our fundraising potential exponentially!

## **What about Gas Rewards?**

You still earn gas rewards at Stop & Shop and Price Chopper if you pay by gift card.

## **Why am I being asked to commit to a recurring subscription?**

We have found that without a monthly or bi-monthly subscription, it is much easier to forget. With a subscription, you have a built-in system to get your cards. Keep in mind that this subscription is not binding and you can cancel at any time. We do have a limited supply available on an as needed basis.

## **Where can I find the order form?**

You can find the order form by going to [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com). Order forms are also available in the school office.

## **What if I have more questions?**

Feel free to contact Andrea Ginter at [andrea.ginter@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.ginter@gmail.com) or at 860-251-9125.



**Stop&Shop**

Have you re-registered your **Stop & Shop** card to help earn cash for Emerson-Williams? This free program helps our school earn money each time you buy groceries. Registering your card does not affect earning gas points. You must register your card EACH school year—so go do it now if you haven't already! Visit [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) for the link.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

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