



Tiger Topics  
School Newsletter

**EMERSON-WILLIAMS**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO**

WELCOME TO  
EMERSON-WILLIAMS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.EWPTO.COM](http://WWW.EWPTO.COM)

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EWPTO 2ND YEAR CO-PRESIDENT**

The 2019-2020 school year is almost at a close and it's been quite an interesting year, no? With so much happening in the world, I'll try to keep the subject on school matters. At the last minute, I decided to create a final Tiger Topics as I was unable to work on the newsletter since the school building's closure.

On June 4th, we had our last PTO meeting and emotions were high. Ms. Thakur discussed distance learning and how difficult it is for the school year is end this way. Plans for distance learning in the fall is 99.9% completed if that's what will occur. Plans for reopening the building in the fall, at this time, is currently zero; this is due to lack of directives, procedures, protocols, and restrictions from the state. If summer school guidelines predict what will come in the fall, reopening the building does not look optimistic. The building would not be a safe place for students and staff. Additionally, this is definitely not how she and the staff hoped for the school year to end.

Parents expressed their appreciation to the school, teachers, and staff. Staff did a great job reaching out to parents and students during distance learning. One parent mentioned how Emerson-Williams has been an amazing and a

phenomenal school (as she and her family move into another town this summer). Other parents loved the yard signs placed by 5th grade staff. Staff member Caryn Doten received wonderful compliments at her creative production skills with those amazing morning announcements. Parents raved about Ms. Fortuna's music video classes.

Ms. Root explained how staff is planning and reflecting with the questionnaires to make distance learning better – 2.0 as they've been calling it – which will continue into the summer. Social emotional learning and well-being will be a priority going into next year whether it be distance learning or in the building. Resources are being provided by the district, but staff is looking into additional resources as well.

I would like to thank Ms. Thakur and Ms. Root for dedicating their free time to come to our PTO meetings. Your insight and availability for questions has been a wonderful resource for parents. Having that 'facetime' has been beneficial to hear important information regarding the school, teachers, staff, and district. Thank you to other staff who joined us during our

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**Board and Members Needed**

At this time, we are in need of PTO Officers for 2020-2021 school year:

- PTO Secretary
- PTO Treasurer

Additionally, we welcome new PTO members to join us. By working together, we can make the school more awesome than it already is! But, it will take a strong partnership to make this happen!

Without volunteers, there are events and activities that will not occur without volunteers or support. Some examples include Cultural Night, Strawberry Festival, the Color Run, teacher supply purchases, book fairs, High Touch / High Tech, Wethersfield Creative Arts Council Assemblies, book purchases for classrooms and media center, the Talent Showcase, dance, Grade 6 End-of-Year Activities, and more.

**2020-2021 PTO Meetings**



Emerson-Williams  
Upper Media Center at  
Emerson-Williams at 7:00 p.m.

**September 10, October 8,  
November 12, January 7,  
February 11, March 11, April 8,  
May 6 & June 3**

## EWPTO Event Calendar

### June 12

Tentative Last Day of School

### August 27

First Day of School

### September 7

No School, Labor Day

### September 10

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### October 8

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### October 12

No School, Columbus Day

### November 3

No School, Professional Development

### November 11

No School, Veterans Day

### November 12

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### November 26 & 27

No School, Thanksgiving Recess

### December 24 - 31

No School, December Recess

### January 1

No School, New Year's Day

### January 7

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### January 18

No School, Martin Luther King Day

### February 11

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### February 12

No School, Professional Development

### February 15

No School, Presidents' Day

### February 16

No School, Winter Recess

### March 11

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

in the Upper Media Center

### April 2

No School, Good Friday

### April 8

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### April 12-16

No School, Spring Recess

### May 6

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### May 31

No School, Memorial Day

### June 3

EW PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
in the Upper Media Center

### June 10

Tentative Last Day of School

# EMERSON-WILLIAMS TIGERS

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meetings as well (even the one who refused to turn on her camera).

We had a productive meeting as a 2020-2021 budget was voted in. Additionally, Leslie Williams will take the 1st Year Co-President position as Rebecca Anderson slides over to the 2nd Year Co-President position. With whatever the new school year throws at these two ladies, I'm sure with their organizational skills and attention to detail, they will be amazing. Congratulations to you both! The PTO has open slots for a Treasurer and Secretary. Please email [PTOBoard@ewpto.com](mailto:PTOBoard@ewpto.com) if you have questions or are interested in either position.

I felt the PTO meeting ended a bit awkwardly, but I was ok with that since it represents how 2020 has been – awkward. For those of you who don't know, I'm a bedside nurse working on a COVID unit. In a recent conversation with a friend who I hadn't spoke to in a while, I stated that it wasn't COVID that broke me but distance learning (and I wasn't the one learning). She asked if she could quote me on that. So, reflect that one. You, the parents, and staff have done some amazing things during distance learning. During quarantine, every parent had a different situation whether they were working at home or not working; either situation had their different stressors. Some family's stressors were more involved than others. Every child had a different experience during distance learning; some do well while others learning disabilities inhibit the ability for them to learn in this platform. Whatever situation you and your family are in, stress, anxiety, and emotions are or were high.

I am grateful to the PTO because it brought me in contact with other wonderful families who I may not have met. The PTO kept me in the loop because I live under a rock. I cannot express enough... thank you for your dedication, volunteer hours, and sweat you put in for the PTO. Overall, throughout the years, you have made

this a wonderful experience. You do wonderful things for the staff, school and school community and it's been amazing. But my time at Emerson-Williams will end. Remember to be kind...not only to others but also to yourself. Have a wonderful summer!

HOLDEN, MIRABEL, & NORA  
PRESENT:

# Lemonade Stand Against Racism

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM-1:00PM  
143 CREST ST, WETHERSFIELD

100% OF ALL MONEY RECEIVED WILL  
GO TO [THECONSCIOUSKID.ORG](https://www.theconsciouskid.org) TO HELP  
GET CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT SUPPORT  
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**KW** GREATER HARTFORD  
KELLER WILLIAMS

**FROM THE DESK OF THE FUTURE EWPTO 1ST YEAR CO-PRESIDENT**

Hi, Leslie Williams here... At the June 2020 PTO Meeting, I was elected to be your new EWPTO 1st Year Co-President for the next school year. Some of you might be thinking, yeah, I've heard that name before. Well, I've been around for 7 years and I've got another 5 more years to go at E-W. So, I'm happy to help make the 2020-

2021 school year a successful one for all our students and staff. I'm grateful for Rebecca Anderson, our wonderful Co-President, who has shined brightly during these uncertain times and will continue into next year. I'm also sad to say goodbye to three wonderful Moms from our Board – Chrissy Pikos, Amy Burlingame, and Fran

Schwarzhaupt. Over the last couple of years, these strong women have led our PTO with grace under fire and have come out shining brightly. Thank you, ladies, for sacrificing your time, for your participation, innovation, and diversity. I will definitely try to make you all proud during the next two years. #proudPTOparent



**Committee Volunteer Needs**

**Translators:** The PTO is looking for translators! Are you bilingual (or multilingual) in English and other languages, such as Spanish, Bosnian or Mandarin? If so, and you're willing to get involved, we'd love to have you translate some of our content! Please email us at [PTOBoard@ewpto.com](mailto:PTOBoard@ewpto.com) if you are interested!

**Email Communication**

The PTO is making an effort to reduce the amount of paper flyers sent home in your child's backpack. Please provide your email so we can keep you up-to-date on school events, volunteer opportunities, PTO events, and fundraising news.

Fill out the form included in this edition of Tiger Topics or go to our website at [www.ewpto.com](http://www.ewpto.com) and click on the 'Subscribe' button. If you're using a tablet or cell

phone, click on 'SUBSCRIBE' under the 'Get Involved' tab.

**Box Tops for Education**

The Box Tops program is going digital! No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your school's Box Tops earnings online.



Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢ for your school. Make sure each one has a clearly visible product acronym and expiration date.

**Keep scanning those receipts!**

## Shout Outs from the Teachers:

**Karen Jahne:** I am so proud of the work completed at home by my children and their families! Especially for the first two months, most of my K students needed a parent by their side in order to log on for Meets, read directions, and help with the assignments. Wonderful progress was noted in all academic areas! Thank you to all of you! The best part of Distance Learning was the individualized instruction time with the kids and getting to know my families better! I will miss EW!!

Additional  
correspondence  
with Ms Jahne:

This has been a most unbelievable time in so many ways. I am so grateful that my family and friends have been healthy to date. There are three bookends to my career that are also surprising:

- I started teaching in an open classroom at Highcrest in an individualized instruction program. It was called Project Plan and had a computer component for record-keeping. The upper grades used this, the lower grades did not. I now end my career teaching individuals and small groups on a computer.
- Jack Ferguson hired me to teach at Highcrest. He had a great influence on me as a new teacher. Jack passed away last week from COVID-19.
- I was in college when MLK was shot and Hartford and the nation erupted in anger. I became an activist for racial equality, tutoring and student teaching in Roxbury, MA.

Now our nation has erupted again, but in such a different way. I pray that this time our nation can get it right.

**Pamela Jones:** We did it! As difficult as it was, we made it to the end of this school year. I am proud to be part of this dedicated community. Have a relaxing, stress-free summer.



SHOUT



OUTS

**Emily Caravella:** Dear Tiger Parents, You are ALL amazing! I am proud of all of your amazing students for being so flexible and willing to learn in many so different ways this year. I am proud of all of YOU for your incredible work supporting your children during both in person learning and distance. Thank you for inviting us into your homes via chromebook/ipad and for letting us teach your amazing children. Have a wonderful, safe and healthy summer.

**Shout Outs from the PTO:**

**Chrissy Pikos:** To *Rebecca Anderson*, I've molded you into becoming greatness during this coming school year... who am I kidding, I didn't mold anything... you'll be better than me. At least I can blame COVID for the mess I leave behind. My friend, I have no doubt you will do wonderful things for EW. To *Fran Schwarzhaupt*, thank you for listening to my rants and talking me off the ledge; they were invaluable. Please apologize to Mike for all the time I 'took you away'. To *Amy Burlingame*, the role you played in this PTO was far more difficult than the role I played. Thank you for the lessons you taught me and I am happy the PTO brought us friendship. Thank you for organizing the SEPTO organization within our town. You've brought hope and support to many families within our community.

**The Williams Family:** We'd like to give a great big virtual hug to *Mrs. Jones* and all of the Grade One Team for doing an AMAZING job with 1st Grade Distance Learning, and throughout the whole year. I have no idea how they do it, but they certainly deserve BEST TEACHER Awards! Wishing *Mrs. Jones*, *Mrs. Copland*, and *Mrs. Boyd* a wonderful and restful summer with lots of health and happiness! Thank you for all you do!



**Anna Karpiej-Szczepanski:** Thank you to the all the 1st grade teachers: *Ms. Boyd*, *Mrs. Copland* and *Ms. Jones* for all their hard work this year. You are wonderful and compassionate teachers. The Emerson-Williams community is very lucky to have you.

**Leslie Williams:** On behalf of the 6th Grade Class of 2020 and the Sixth Grade Committee, we thank all of our school community for supporting EWPTO and our Sixth Grade Fundraisers this year and all previous years. This includes parents, families, teachers, staff, vendors, and local businesses. This year especially, we could not have celebrated the success and accomplishments of 64 Emerson-Williams 6th Grade students stepping up to Silas Deane Middle School without you! This is just the beginning! You haven't seen the last of us! E-W Tigers forever! #allinthetogether



We're participating in the

# Community Bag Program



**Month of  
July**

We will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is sold this month at the Stop & Shop located at:

**80 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 AND  
1380 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield, CT 06109**