

The October 1 student count at Eastford Elementary School was 152. The October 1 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 58. In addition, six students attended Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School, two students attended Killingly Regional Agricultural Center and one student attended Quinebaug Valley Middle College High School. Additionally, one student attended Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy and one student attended Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) Magnet School.

**Mission Statement and Annual Goals**

We pledge to provide every one of Eastford's children entrusted to our care with the very best education to meet individual needs, to maintain a nurturing and caring environment, and to ensure for each child the necessary preparation for a productive and fulfilling life in our changing world.

**2013-2014 Board of Education Goals**

- I. Educational Leadership
    - A. Explore opportunities for Eastford educators to increase resources and connections that will lead to improved student learning.
    - B. Compile data related to K-12 performance and assure that Eastford students are competitive.
  - II. Organizational Management
    - A. Continue to update policies and delete unnecessary policies; focus on 5000s and 6000s.
    - B. Maintain and improve school facilities in accordance with a multi-year plan.
    - C. Explore ways to achieve greater efficiency as a school district by cooperating with other districts, the town and/or Woodstock Academy for:
      - 1. Shared services
      - 2. Cooperative programs
      - 3. Sharing of staff
- Community and BOE Relations:
- A. Develop a school leadership plan for the future.

**2013-14 Superintendent Goals**

- I. Educational Leadership
  - A. Improve student achievement as we fully implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
  - B. Compile data related to K-12 performance and assure that Eastford students are competitive.
- II. Organizational Management
  - A. Continue to update policies and delete unnecessary policies.
  - B. Maintain and improve school facilities in accordance with a multi-year plan.
  - C. Explore effective and efficient ways to engage in regional collaborations.
- III. Community and BOE Relations:
  - A. Develop a school leadership plan for the future.
  - B. Continue to develop the School District's role in the Community Scholarships given to Eastford college students.

**2013-14 Eastford Elementary School Goal**

All staff will implement, demonstrate and monitor a high quality educational program as outlined by Connecticut's Common Core State Standards (CCSS) with a focus that extends across all curricular domains and includes instruction, assessment and professional development.

### Goals and Accomplishment

Much evidence of goal accomplishment can be noticed by visiting the school's website. During the 2013-14 school year, the goal of having all Board of Education policies available to the community electronically was achieved. These policies can be found at ([http://www.eastfordct.org/board\\_education.cfm](http://www.eastfordct.org/board_education.cfm)). Additionally, minutes from all Board of Education standing committees— facilities, curriculum, policy, safety, scholarships, and transportation—are readily available by using the dropdown menu using the same link. This report highlights some of the accomplishments that are also found online by accessing the principal/superintendent reports.

### Personnel and Leadership

1. As reflected in the annual goals, much time during the 2013-14 school year was dedicated to future leadership plans since a new principal was being selected for 2014-15. The Board of Education developed a timeline and search and selection plan in the fall of 2013 and advertised the position so that interviews could begin in January. Fourteen candidates were interviewed and each candidate spent time visiting the school. A community committee of thirteen people participated in selecting Heather Tamsin as the principal for the upcoming school year.
2. During the 2013-14 school year, the Board reinstated the school librarian position. Mrs. Joanne Lowney was hired in this role. Hiring Mrs. Lowney also created a collaboration with the Hampton School District, since she works in Hampton and Eastford.
3. Mrs. Necia Stopa, Music and Band Teacher, retired at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

### Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities for the staff during the 2013-14 school year were dedicated to achieving the annual school goal as well as increasing the capacity of teachers to facilitate the development of students' 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills by differentiating classroom instruction and implementing Common Core State Standards. Staff members participated in a variety of professional development activities. These included:

1. For the August Professional Development Day, teachers followed the new state guidelines requiring more personalized professional development and planned development activities for themselves. Individualized choices included working with consultants from companies from which we purchased new online applications, *Stratologica* and *Lexia*. Also on this day, teachers worked to finalize Common Core State Standard report cards, including a behavioral rubric.
2. On the October and January professional development days, teachers joined with colleagues from Hampton and Chaplin to learn how to interpret NWEA *MAP* (Northwest Evaluation Association, Measures of Academic Progress) scores in order to monitor student progress in Reading, Math, Language and Science.
3. One Eastford teacher, Melissa Brown participated in and completed TEAM, the state's teacher induction program—Teacher Education and Mentoring. Lori Crocker-Lincoln enthusiastically mentored Ms. Brown.
4. Meribeth Tedisky continued to coach other staff members who renewed their PMT (Physical and Psychological Management Training) skills. In this program,

staff members learn new and different ways to de-escalate students and moderate behavioral incidents.

5. In addition to scheduled professional development days, staff members completed additional professional development activities, some required and most voluntarily. These professional development pursuits were outlined in the monthly reports available online at [http://www.eastfordct.org/board\\_education.cfm?subpage=1281253](http://www.eastfordct.org/board_education.cfm?subpage=1281253).

### Technology

The Eastford School District is fortunate to have TelePresence videoconferencing equipment. The introduction of this technology has changed the way that the Eastford teachers engage their students in the classroom and has provided opportunities never before possible. This new technology offers endless possibilities and new solutions for learning. This equipment allows students to participate in workshops and courses as well as take field trips via Internet and video technology. Eastford students benefited from this equipment by participating in virtual programs offered by many organizations, including

- The Indianapolis Zoo
- Liberty Science Center, New Jersey
- inkThink Tank & Authors on Call
- Fizzics Education, Australia
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington, D.C.
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center, Ohio
- Michigan State University Museum
- Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton
- The Philadelphia Museum of Art
- New York Firefighting Museum
- Penn Museum, Philadelphia
- St. Louis Zoo
- Toledo Zoo

Eastford Elementary School has always been proud of its extensive use of technology. Twenty new MacBook computers were added to the student collection during the 2013-14 school year, bringing the number of computers dedicated for student use up to around 100. All classrooms were equipped with interactive SmartBoards and at least one iPad.

### Cultural Programs

Cultural programs offer quality encounters with drama, music and other performance areas so that students have a broader education and gain background information related to their general studies. Eastford Elementary School students participated in a variety of cultural programs during the 2013-14 school year, many of which were made possible with funding from the PTO. These included author, Jane Sutcliffe; Chris Poulos, World Bicycle Stunt Champion; Gail White from Roseland Cottage for a "Rally Around

the Flag” Civil War Encampment; Sirius Coyote; African Dancers; and a gymnasium setup of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) museum.

### Cocurricular Programs

1. Three sports seasons were offered for middle school students—fall, winter and spring— two soccer teams, two basketball teams and a coed track team.
2. Northeast Communities against Substance Abuse (NECASA) provided Eastford's Local Prevention Council (LPC) grant money to support local prevention of substance abuse. Research has shown that when children are shown how to use leisure time effectively, they are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. During the 2013-14 school year, the funds were used to sponsor after school/holiday enrichment programs. One-third of EES students participated in after-school programs such as making personalized message boards, holiday green decorations, greeting cards and rainbow looms. Additionally, the LPC sponsored a field trip on a Professional Development Day to the Bradley Air Museum.
3. Catie Botting, a parent and drama enthusiast, organized a successful Drama program for EES students. More than fifty students participated in drama activities that culminated in a springtime production of *How to Eat Like a Child*.
4. During the 2013-14 school year, the Board of Education facilitated the Before and After School Program for the third year. Melinda King was the primary childcare worker and Tammy Hull, Kathryn LaRose, Carla Harrington and Alaina Kilburn assisted.
5. A well-established Homework Club was facilitated by Joan Muller, Carole McCombe, Candice Mead and Meribeth Tedisky.

### Facilities

1. The Board of Education’s Facilities Committee implemented its long-term plan for improving the drainage on the east side of the 1949 and 1963 buildings. An engineer was hired and the project was sent out to bid with the plan to have the Town complete this during the summer of 2014.
2. In November 2013, a playground inspection was conducted. Improvements were made in response to the inspector’s recommendations—signage was added, mulch was placed under the dome and the oldest swing set was replaced.
3. A number of items were purchased to update the security of the building. In addition to the Board of Education’s Facilities Committee, the Board created a Safety and Security Committee that made recommendations for facilities updates. Community members serving on the Safety and Security Committee included Amy Ayer, Catie Botting, Ken Keyes, Deborah Richards, Diane Martin, Charles Kernan, Gordon Spink, Matthew Cook, Sharon Kozey and members of State Police Troop D.
4. The Board of Education submitted a long-term list of capital projects to the Board of Selectmen that includes as its highest priorities the replacement of the underground oil storage tank and the digging of a new well. The recommendations also included roof replacements, upgrades to athletic fields, gym floor and playgrounds, as well as the replacement of the temporary classroom.

### Parent Groups

The Eastford Elementary School continued to enjoy the support of three active parent groups:

1. Among other projects, The Eastford PTO sponsored cultural programs, a school sign contest, beautification projects and Book Fairs.
2. The Middle School fund-raising group sponsored its twelfth Annual Goods and Services Auction to raise money to completely fund the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.
3. The Sports Boosters supported the soccer, basketball and track teams by providing equipment that was not included in the Board of Education's budget. In addition, the Sports Boosters sponsored a pasta dinner and magazine fund-raiser.

### Ongoing Committees and Collaborative Initiatives

The following groups represent ongoing efforts involving Eastford Elementary Staff working collaboratively with parents and other stakeholders:

1. Professional Development and Curriculum Committee: Lori Crocker-Lincoln led this committee that also included Elizabeth Rhyhart, Juliana Fox, Matthew Cook, Gerald Marmat and Linda Loretz. This team ensures that individualized goals for intervention are developed by math and reading teachers and shared with parents six times per year—each time progress notes and report cards are issued. The team also facilitates curriculum development and overall school improvement.
2. The Readiness Council, which is run by the school and the town, is a group of citizens concerned with matters related to children who are not yet school-aged. It is the duty of the Readiness Council to develop and implement policies for and to provide ongoing monitoring of the School Readiness Preschool Program. Readiness Council members included Jacki Budd, Janelle Marengo, Linda Loretz, Theresa Neely, Terry Cote, Ashlyn Ellsworth, Christine Kopplin, John Vitale, Susan Shead, Robin Bibeault and Michelle Bibeault.
3. Eastford Elementary School continued to work closely with the Eastford Independent Fire Company. Gordon Spink, Eastford Fire Chief, in addition to participating in the Board's Safety and Security Committee, was instrumental in improving evacuation procedures and overall safety guidelines. Jeannine Spink worked closely with staff in keeping CPR and First Aid certifications up-to-date as well as meeting with all classes regarding fire safety and first aid.
4. Members of Congregational Church of Eastford provided multiple after-school enrichment programs for students. The youth group from the Eastford Baptist Church offered volunteer services to the school, with various projects each year.

A long-term collaboration with the Union School District for sports and the Washington, D.C. trip expanded to include student dances and other recreational programs.

EIGHTH GRADE AWARDS

Marilyn Krom, PTO	Kristopher Jakubowski
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Andrew Pedersen
Olivette Kozey	Isabel Barrett
Allen James Day	Griffin Edwards Alexis Lathrop
Roger Mason Day	Alexis Lathrop
William Shand Memorial	Michele Wysocki
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Isabel Barrett
Otto F. King	Nathaniel Merlo
American Legion	Nicholas Ahnberg
Joseph St. King	Colin Glenn
The ETA Local Hero	Alexis Lathrop
Arboriculture Award	Isabel Barrett
Math/Science/Tech	Griffin Edwards
Humanities	Chelsea Wise
Presidential Academic Fitness	Griffin Edwards Alexis Lathrop Chelsea Wise
William S. Warren	Griffin Edwards

During the 2013-14 school year, Board of Education Citizen of the Month awards were presented to

September Ely Driscoll

October Griffin Edwards and Alexis Lathrop

November Danielle Chaput

After the first trimester, it was decided to give two awards each trimester rather than an award each month.

Second Trimester: Isabel Barrett and Kamila Wysocki

Third Trimester: Shannon Hermann and Evelyn Young

Griffin Edwards and Alexis Lathrop were the recipients of the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Superintendent’s Award.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Recipient(s)</b>
The Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship Award	Hannah Budd
The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Julia Budd Morgan Lundy
The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship	Jacob Keyes
The Emil Vaida Scholarship	Jacob Keyes
The Esther and Lucy Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship Fund	Hannah Budd Meryl Wolfe
The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship	Julia Budd
The Mary King Sharpe	Sarah Paulhus
Ethel Gardner Music Scholarship	Stacey Yazo Ryan Whittenburg

**Eastford Elementary School 2014 EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES**

Nicholas Ahnberg  
Isabel Bernadette Barrett  
Caleb Timothy Budd  
Griffin Edwards  
Colin James Glenn  
Kristopher M. Jakubowski  
Anna E. Keyes  
Alexis Marie Lathrop  
Nathaniel Merlo  
Bailey Orion Nault  
Andrew Dennis Pedersen  
Jacob Reynolds  
Haley Joanna Smith  
Chelsea Lynn Wise  
Michele Wysocki

**Eastford 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

**Killingly High School**

Ashley Ahnberg

**Quinebaug Valley Middle College High School**

Jacob Keyes

**Woodstock Academy**

Brooks Atwood  
Jason Everett Barlow  
William Paul Beausoleil  
Owen J. Brockett  
John Hayden Budd  
Kira Cayetana Coene  
Abigail Elizabeth Hustus  
Sarah Margaret Paulhus  
Sean T. Perry  
Lexie Jane Soja  
Nicholas J. Vinal  
Meryl Emelynn Wolfe  
Colleen Yazo