

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: February 4, 2021
Subject: February Report to the Board of Education

Virtual Field Trips:

- In January and February, students in grades 5-8 are participating in a series of virtual sessions with staff from Mystic Seaport. Topics include: Night Sky Update, Design-A-Mission, Life in a Seaport Town, and Phases of the Moon.
- Grades 2/3 and 4 are participating in a series of programs through the CT Audubon Society about bird ecology.
- Kindergarten will participate in a virtual author event with Andover School. Sandra Homing, the author of The Giant Hug will lead the event on February 9.
- In February and March, Grade 2/3 will participate in a series of virtual sessions with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra focused on the cultural origins of Blues, Jazz, Gospel, Motown and Hip Hop music.
- On March 2, the kindergarten class will participate in The Mitten Project –a virtual reading program with a “mystery class” around the story, The Mitten, by Jan Brett.
- Virtual field trips through CILC:

Author Valerie Marsh	Snow Much to Know	02-12-2021	Grade 2/3
Roper Mountain	Westward by Rail	02-24-2021	Grade 4
Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center	Celebration of Seuss	03-01-2021	Grade 2/3
Smithsonian American Art Museum	American Indians	03-23-2021	Grade 4
Whiskeytown National Recreation Center	Whiskeytown and the Northern Diggins	04-24-2021	Grade 4

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 14 students enrolled. Mrs. Kopplin has scheduled a virtual family event, *Friendship Fun*, on Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 PM. This event is open to all families with children aged birth to 5. Registration is open for next school year.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

The Council did not meet on February 2 due to the weather. They are revising their annual Readiness Survey that will help us determine preschool needs/enrollment for next year and beyond. The survey should be ready to send out in the next week or so.

Professional Development:

- Mrs. Kopplin will continue to participate in EastConn's virtual professional learning community sponsored by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and EastConn. This group meets on a monthly basis.
- On February 4 I will attend a virtual meeting with SERAC - Southeast Regional Action Council – on suicide prevention response planning and dealing with mental health needs in schools and communities.
- I continue to work with EastConn staff on a weekly basis to develop our “Portrait of an Eastford Learner” and to work on a strategic improvement plan.
- EES Teachers and staff will have a professional development day on March 5. Some of the time will be focused on individual professional learning and some as whole group learning focused on Restorative Practices and further developing our Portrait of an Eastford Learner.

Community and Other Events:

- High School Open Houses: local high schools are providing area middle schools with information on upcoming virtual open houses, video information and brochures to distribute to students. Ms. Murana, school counselor, will be discussing high school options and the application process with students. At this time, we anticipate the following:

8 students will attend The Woodstock Academy

1 student will attend QMC

2 students will attend Ellis Tech

2 students will attend E.O. Smith

2 students will attend Killingly VoAg

- Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln received a Distance Learning Scholarship through the Connecticut Education Network (CEN – our internet provider) and Internet2 Community Anchor Program. She was selected along with other K-12 teachers in Connecticut and across the country to receive free programming for her students through the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration.
- EES students will celebrate Global School Play Day on February 3 and the 100th day of school on February 11.
- Teachers are planning activities to celebrate Read Across America Day on March 1. This will be a day focused on reading and reading related activities.