

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: January 5, 2021
Subject: January Report to the Board of Education

Virtual Field Trips:

- In January and February, students in grades 5-8 will participate 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.
- Virtual field trips through CILC:

Children's Museum of Atlanta	Glitter Explosion	01-08-2021	Grade K/1
Denali National Park and Preserve	The Science of Sled Dogs	01-08-2021 01-11-2021	Grade 2/3 Grade 4
Children's Museum of Atlanta	Commotion in the Ocean	02-04-2021	Grade K/1

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 14 students enrolled. Readiness report cards will go home in January as they only have two reporting periods. Mrs. Kopplin is planning ways to hold virtual family and transition events that include families and incoming students to abide by NAEYC requirements.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

The Council approved the purchase of six new iPads, cases and a charging dock with money from the Quality Enhancement Grant. These items are beginning to arrive and will be ready for use by our preschool students in the next few weeks. At their January meeting, the Council set goals for the 2021-22 school year. The goals are as follows:

1. Staff will participate in professional development relating to remote and distance learning in order to support family social and emotional needs.
2. Staff will plan programs and activities to support families that utilize a virtual learning model.
3. Staff will redesign transition programs to preschool and to kindergarten for students and families to accommodate social distancing requirements and to allow for students and families to become familiar with their teachers and classmates.
4. Staff will consult with OT and PT to develop motor activities that will support motor skill development in preschoolers that will better support readiness for kindergarten expectations.

Professional Development:

- On January 11 and 25, teachers will have two sessions with EastConn staff on integrating the Interim Assessment Blocks into Reading Units of Study and learning how they can be utilized in other subject areas to monitor student progress on grade level/subject area standards.
- On January 12, Mrs. Reynolds will attend the EastConn Regional Math Council Meeting to review changes to Smarter Balanced Math administration that will accommodate in-person and remote learners.
- On January 13, I will work virtually with EastConn staff to continue work on developing a school-wide strategic plan.
- On January 25, Stephanie Murana and I will attend a virtual session on integrating Restorative practices with remote learning. This is sponsored by CAS and presented by Joanne Freiberg.
- 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.

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

- PTO sponsored *Giving Tree* will stop taking donations on January 8. Proceeds will be used to support the Eastford Food Pantry.
- Student Council will be holding a "Critter Crusade" during the month of January to collect pet care products and supplies to donate to local animal rescue groups.
- Life Touch picture retakes will be held on January 12.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 will participate in an interdistrict *Mosaic Grant* opportunity facilitated by EastConn and sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The topic in grade 4 is Mindful Transformations and the topic in grade 5 is Faces of Culture. Throughout the program, students will meet virtually with students in other districts. The grant has two main goals: To reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation for participating students and to improve their academic performance in ELA, Social Studies, Science and their personal growth through an SEL and arts approach.