

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: June 3, 2021
Subject: June Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

Grade 8 students will take 4 local day trips to supplant the 4-day trip they typically take to Washington, D.C.

- May 25 – grade 8 students traveled to Mystic Seaport to participate in a program onboard the Amistad, a planetarium show related to the Amistad journey, sailed on the Dyer Dhows, climbed rigging and carved scrimshaw. Trip evaluations are available for you to see feedback.
- June 4 – grade 8 students will travel to Lake Compounce for a day at the amusement park.
- June 8 – grade 8 students will take a 2-hour narrated riverboat cruise on the CT River then visit Gillette Castle.
- June 11 – grade 8 students will have a guided tour of Fort Adams, Newport, RI, then walk the Cliff Walk and visit the Newport Mansions.

June 4 – students in grades 5-7 will visit Plimoth Plantation (Plimoth~Patuxet) – to experience the living history recreation of life in Plimoth, the Patuxet village and board the Mayflower II.

Virtual Field Trips:

The Mariners' Museum	Mariners of Moana: An Artifact Exploration	6-11-2021	Grade 4
Banyan Global Learning	Live Puppet Show: Bird That Wants to Fly	6-16-2021	Grade 2/3

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program currently has 14 students enrolled with three additional students receiving walk-in services. Mrs. Kopplin continues to plan virtual family and transition events to prepare students and families for next school year. The roster is set for next school year with 17 students. Eight of those are returning 4-year olds. We have 7 additional interested families that we do not have space for. Notification letters were mailed out on June 3. No students from surrounding towns completed registrations.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

The Council met last May 4. They did not have a June meeting. The Readiness and QE grants have been finalized and submitted, we are awaiting notification of acceptance. The Council accepted the resignation of Liaison, Maribeth Stearns, and voted to seek appointment of Sharon Kozey to take over as Liaison as of July 1, 2021. The appointment is still pending approval of the First Selectman.

Professional Development:

- 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. The strategic plan work will be ongoing into next school year.
- Michelle Bibeault completed her Level II Google Certification. Congratulations!
- Stephanie Murana will participate in training for the Primary Mental Health Project Grant on June 4 and June 11.
- English Language Arts teachers will work with EastConn on June 9 to review alignment of the State priority standards with our Reading Units of Study program. Summer curriculum work on standards alignment and progressions will continue later in June. Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln will work with EastConn on this.
- Mrs. Mead and Ms. Samperi will work in June on aligning our current resources with the new state PE/Health/SEL combined curriculum for grades K-12.

Update on Grant Applications:

- **Security Grant (Round 5 SSGP)** – We have conducted a security audit with CT State Police and are gathering quotes on projects for ongoing improvement. The grant is due to be submitted by June 15.
- **Primary Mental Health Project (PMHP)** – This grant annually funds our Playing and Learning Support (P.A.L.S.) program. We are eligible to apply at similar levels of funding as in previous years. This grant is due to be submitted by June 24.

2021 Fall Sports Update:

We have conducted sign-ups for boys and girls soccer for the fall. We have 9 boys and 5 girls interested. Additionally, one or two students from Union may also be interested. Based on this information, we have decided to have a co-ed intramural team and we will scrimmage neighboring towns instead of competing in the full league schedule.

School Climate Surveys and Progress Toward Goals:

The CSDE allowed for flexibilities in teacher growth and evaluation this school year and they provided guidance on goals that should focus on student engagement and social emotional needs. I am in the process of meeting with teachers to review progress on their goals from this school year.

Each year, annual climate surveys are given to students, staff and families. The results of the surveys inform areas of strength and areas that need improvement. Staff goals based on this feedback will be developed for next school year. Survey data is available for those that wish to review it. A summary of the combined results is below:

Strengths/Improvement	Areas for Growth
Communication with families	Student-student and student to staff respectful interactions
Understanding report cards and standards	Student safety in unstructured settings
Understanding curriculum	Students following school and classroom rules
Students are adequately challenged	Student engagement in academics (MS)
Small class sizes	
Staff help students do their best	
Students have least one trusted adult to go to if needed	
Overall pleased with school efforts and student performance	

Community and Other Events:

- Students in grades 3-8 have completed their Smarter Balanced Assessments.
- Mr. Tomanelli, Mr. Vaughan and Mrs. Reynolds showcased their “Math Rocks” production to all students in a virtual assembly on May 28. Videos and pictures of students from all classrooms are showcased in this production. A link to the video is posted on the homepage of the school website. A lot of time and effort went into creating this virtual production. We have some very talented students! Thanks to our staff members for dedicating their time to this project.
- Several middle school students participated in Woodstock Academy’s First Annual Invitational Math Competition sponsored by the Mathematics National Honor Society. Students Meadow Bulan, Addison Beausoleil, Natalie Borges, Robert Ellsworth, and team captain, Alyssa Gilbert placed third overall against teams from other sending towns. Meadow Bulan placed second OVERALL in the individual category! Congratulations for your efforts in this exciting challenge!
- The recent PTO Active-a-Thon raised approximately \$2,000.00. The PTO is looking to replace the backboard and rims on the basketball hoops that are on the back playground. Congratulations to Sullivan Tedford, Matthew Johndrow, and Jacob and Kyleigh Murphy as the top three earners in this successful fundraiser.
- Congratulations to our elementary students who willingly stepped up and sang some patriotic songs during the Eastford Community Memorial Day celebration. They did a fabulous job!
- Mrs. Mead, Ms. Dill and students in grades 4-8 are collaborating with the Eastford Conservation Commission on a pollinator project that will utilize the “pizza garden” space on the hillside between the school and Town Office building.
- Field Day will take place on Monday June 14 for students in grades PK-1, on Tuesday, June 15 for students in grades 5-8, and on Wednesday, June 16 for student in grades 2-4. PTO is organizing a pizza lunch option that students may choose to purchase on their Field Day.
- On June 7, DARE Officer, Trooper Susan Cecil, will speak with students in grades 5-8 about internet safety, cyber-bullying, and other online activities. A recorded program will also be made available for parents/guardians.
- Mrs. Bibeault will be hosting a kindergarten Open House on Monday evening, June 7, for incoming kindergarten students and families.

- On June 14, some parent volunteers and community members will be helping to move some donated office/building furniture here to the school. Some of the furniture includes newer shelving, tables and chairs. Thanks to David Jakubowski for this generous donation.
- Interviews are underway to hire an ELA teacher and a math teacher. We have a number of promising candidates. A posting is out for an instrumental music teacher.
- Grade 8 Graduation will be held outdoors on Tuesday, June 15 at 6:30 PM (rain date June 16). The ceremony is for family members only.
- A Summer Enrichment STEM program will be held here at Eastford Elementary School during the month of July for students entering grades 1 thru 6. Mrs. Mead and other staff will lead the program with materials and resources provided by Mystic Aquarium. Each week will focus on a different topic and include weekly trips to Mystic Aquarium. Students must register by June 10.