



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: March 2, 2023
 Subject: March Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- The Washington, D.C. trip will be May 16 – May 19, 2023. Students in both grade 7 and grade 8 will attend.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.
- One student in grade 6 has been accepted to attend and perform in the Band Ensemble portion of the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) honors festival on March 30, 2023. The festival will be held at the CT Convention Center.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 will attend a performance of *The Magic Flute* at the Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy on March 28, 2023.

Virtual Field Trips through the Center for Interactive Learning (CILC)

Southeast Arizona National Parks	Amazing Animals	Grades 1 and 2	03-17-2023
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Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled. Ten students are 4-year olds who will move on to kindergarten next year.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The Council is updating policies and procedures to be ready for NAEYC re-accreditation in the spring of 2024. The Council sent out their annual Needs Assessment Survey to all families with children under the age of 5. The results will be used to connect with families on matters regarding early childhood resources and to inform us about enrollment interest in our preschool and kindergarten programs.

Update on Grants:

School Mental Health Workers Grant: With the money we qualify for this year, we have posted a position looking for a part time school social worker. We will utilize some of the money to defray costs already expended on evaluations, student mental health needs and 0.2 FTE of the school counselor position.

School Safety Grant Program (SSGP):

The State has opened another round of funding available to public and non-public schools for areas of school safety. This is a reimbursement grant so we are applying to use the grant to fund projects that have already been paid for out of the budget for which we did not receive reimbursement for through the Security Grant program during the last round.

Lowe's Hometowns Grant:

Our application for this grant has been submitted. We are applying for funds to renovate the school gymnasium space. This will include the floor, bleachers, wall padding and basketball hoops. If awarded the grant, we would be eligible for up to \$300,000.00 for gym renovations that would need to be completed between June and November 2023.

School Readiness Grant: Applications to renew our School Readiness and Quality Enhancement Grants will open during March. We will complete the grant application before the end of April.

Data on Student Progress:

Second trimester report cards will go home with students on March 17. Students in grades 5-8 will be holding student-led conferences during our parent conference times on March 23 and 24. All other grades will hold traditional parent-teacher conferences. Teachers in grades 3-8 are utilizing the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) to monitor student progress toward mastering standards. The IABs are resources from the State Department of Education and they align with the standards and types of questions students will see when they take the Smarter Balanced Assessments in the spring. Students in kindergarten through grade 8 are taking the NWEA assessment in Language Arts, Math and Science during the month of March. These results are also used to monitor student progress toward mastering standards and to guide instruction.

The Science of Reading:

Our reading waiver has been submitted. We are requesting a waiver from the State of Connecticut to exempt us from the requirements under new legislation regarding the Science of Reading. The waiver will allow us to continue using the materials we currently have to support Language Arts in grades K-3 as long as we can document that our curriculum and resources provide in-depth instruction and proper screening and assessment in all the elements required under The Science of Reading legislation.

High School Information:

Students who applied to Ellis Tech have received their acceptance letters. Three students have been accepted and plan to attend Ellis in the fall. One student applied to Killingly Ag Ed and has been accepted and plans to attend in the fall. The remaining seven students will attend The Woodstock Academy.

Most Valuable Educator Recognition:

Mrs. Elizabeth Rhynhart was recognized last week by the Boston Red Sox Community Relations Department as a most valuable educator. Student Council members wrote a letter nominating Mrs. Rhynhart for this recognition. This program recognizes educators throughout New England for their hard work and the impact they have on students. Mrs. Rhynhart will receive tickets to attend a Red Sox home game, a personalized jersey, and she will be recognized during a pregame ceremony. Mr. Kernan will share the letter that our Student Council wrote nominating her.

Professional Development:

- I continue to work with EastConn staff on a regular basis to incorporate the Eastford “Portrait of a Learner” (POL) into our existing and developing curriculum documents and continue our work on building a positive learning community with the goal of developing students as “leaders of their own learning”. I attend monthly Regional collaborations through EastConn with the State Department, area administrators and curriculum directors. There is additional focus this year on The Science of Reading and new CSDE requirements that will impact reading and language arts curriculum and assessments beginning July 2023.
- On March 17 I will attend a Leadership Retreat for Connecticut Administrators. Breakout sessions will include information on the newly revised framework for Educator Growth and Evaluation, well-being in schools, using technology, and engaging students and families.
- EastConn staff support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM). ELA teachers also receive support on integrating Units of Study with our Portrait of a Learner.

Community and other events:

- This week we welcomed Jennifer Daniels to our staff as our Speech Language Pathologist. She is settling in and getting to know our students and families.
- Ms. Murana hosts a monthly grandparents’ group at the school. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers are invited to attend for coffee and conversation.
- We will celebrate Read Across America during the week of February 27-March 3. Student athletes from The Woodstock Academy will come to read with students in grades PK-5 and students in grades 6-8 will have a guest reader from the Judicial Department, Judge Erik Lohr. The week will be filled with reading related theme days and other activities that encourage reading.
- On March 8 the Eastford Readiness Program will sponsor “Books and Blocks” from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. This is an opportunity for children ages birth to 5 to visit the school, interact together and learn about the Readiness Program.
- On March 10 the EES PTO will host “The Magic of Science” Assembly for all students.
- On March 15 Ms. Murana and Mrs. Boyd will host an event for the students and families involved in the PALS program. They will “hatch” dinosaur eggs and read stories.
- On March 16 D.A.R.E. Trooper James White will provide information to students in grades 7 and 8 regarding internet and social media safety.
- On March 28 students in grades PK-4 will be showcased in a musical performance called “The Alphabet Adventures of Sometimes Y.” There will be an in-school performance and an evening performance.
- On April 4 students in grades 2-8 will be demonstrating their talents in the Eastford School Talent Show. This will be held at 6:30 PM.

Special Thanks to:

- Michelle Bibeault for organizing the Read Across America week activities and for putting together the bulletin board display to recognize our Board of Education members during Board Appreciation month. Thank you BOE for your service!