



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: November 4, 2022
 Subject: November Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C. trip: The Auction Committee has begun planning for an Auction on December 10. An “advisory” committee of parents is working to start planning. We will combine grades 7 and 8 (21 students combined) for the annual trip to D.C. to help keep the cost per person as reasonable as possible.
- Grade 8 students will visit Ellis Technical High School in Danielson on November 14 to learn about the various programs and shops offered at Ellis Tech.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 will take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days. Grades K and 1 will visit on November 16 to receive library cards.
- On November 18 students in grade 3, 4 and 5 will travel to Sturbridge Village for hands on agriculture and cooking programs and to experience life in a colonial New England village.

Virtual Field Trips:

Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center	History of the Silk Road	Grade 6	11/07/2022
Author Valerie Marsh	Turkey Tales! Turkey Folktales using Sign Language	Grades 1 & 2	11/07/2022
Smithsonian American Art Museum	Young America	Grade 8	11/15/2022
Long Island Science Center	Engineering STEM Lab	Grades 7 & 8	11/22/2022

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 16 students with another student expected to enroll in January. Ten students are 4-year olds and seven are new to the program.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The Council is exploring state and federal grants available for programs that receive School Readiness Funding. One is a Wage Enhancement Grant and the other is an Administrative Funds Enhancement Grant.

Update on Grants:

After School Grant: Mr. Kernan will provide an update on the After School programming made possible through this grant.

School Mental Health Workers Grant: This is a new grant through the Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health, Nutrition, and Family Services. The purpose of the grant is to assist Connecticut school districts in hiring and retaining additional School Mental Health Workers (SMHW), which by their definition includes school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, and licensed marriage and family therapists. Districts may apply for grants between \$50,000 and \$120,000. The deadline to apply is November 30. We are looking at our current data and evaluating our needs so that we can complete the application in a timely manner.

Data on Student Progress:

Students have completed NWEA computerized assessments in the areas of reading, language, math and science. The results are immediately available to teachers and are used to inform instruction and to identify areas of strength and areas that need support. Individual student progress will be shared with parents during conferences.

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for November 21 in the evening and November 22 in the afternoon. First trimester report cards will go home with students on December 9.

High School Information and Open Houses:

Ms. Murana is providing students and families with information on area high schools and the application process. This information is available on her website, in the Newsletter and on a bulletin board near her office.

Current Open House Dates:

ACT: November 17, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Update on School Sports:

Mr. Kernan will provide an update on the fall soccer season and the upcoming basketball season.

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.
- EastConn staff will support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM). ELA teachers will also receive support on integrating Units of Study with our Portrait of a Learner.

Community and other events:

- The PTO will announce the winner of the “Design the School Sign” contest by November 10. We had many entries this year and the PTO has narrowed them down to three finalists.
- Ms. Murana will offer a regular “Parent University” to provide resources and support to our families.
- Ms. Murana will host a monthly grandparents group at the school beginning on November 4 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers are invited to attend for coffee and conversation.
- On November 10 Mr. Tomanelli will lead students in a patriotic program to honor the Military Veterans in town. Town veterans and families are invited to attend. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the school gym.
- November 15 is our picture retake day. Irvin Simon photographers will be here to take photos of any staff or students who were not present on September 27.
- On November 17 Mystic Aquarium will be bringing a penguin to EES as part of their Penguin Ambassador Program. Those who attend will learn about African Penguins and watch the penguin paint a picture. This program will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym.
- On November 22 students will practice a bus evacuation drill when they arrive at school on the school bus that morning.

Special Thanks to:

- Grade 7 and 8 parents who stepped up to help organize the Annual Goods and Services Auction so students can continue to attend the trip to Washington, D.C. free of charge.
- Mr. Tomanelli for putting in extra time to organize a special celebration to honor our Veterans.
- Mr. David Barlow for donating time and resources to rebuild the planter box around the school sign located in front of the school.
- Mrs. Mead and her students for taking second place in the town-wide scarecrow contest with their entry, “Creepy Classroom”.
- Congratulations to 2022-2023 student council representatives: Matthew Johndrow, Owen Budd, Marley Hutchings, Porter Barlow, Allie Beausoleil, David Budd, Wes DePercio, Abby Haynes, and Leilani Soucy-Brodeur. The student council is looking forward to fundraising and planning more events this year.