

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: September 6, 2023
Subject: September Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- We are not planning a Washington, D.C. trip this school year. The annual Goods and Services auction fundraiser is planned for November 11, 2023.
- Grade 7 will visit Mystic Seaport for an overnight trip on September 28 through September 29. They will sleep onboard the historic ship, *The Conrad*.
- Grades 5 and 6 will travel to Plimoth Plantation on October 5 to visit the living history museum and the Mayflower II. This will be an extended day for students if we can arrange bus transportation.
- On September 22, Roseland Cottage historical reenactors will involve students in grades 3-8 in a Spirit of '76 Encampment.
- Grades 2, 3, and 4 will take monthly walking trips to Eastford Public Library beginning in September.

Virtual Field Trips:

None scheduled at this time.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Program is full with 17 students, plus an additional non-Readiness student who will attend for two partial days. We have three students that we were not able to accommodate this year. The State of CT has changed the kindergarten enrollment cutoff date from January 1 to September 1 effective in the 2024-2025 school year. This means that children who turn 5 years old between September 1 and January 1 will have a third year of preschool.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

The first meeting this year will be on October 3 at 5:30 PM and thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month at the same time. They plan to continue holding meetings virtually. We have been awarded both the Readiness and Quality Enhancement grants for 2023-2024 and we are up for Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in the spring.

2023-2024 School Year Updates:

We had a great start to our new school year. The buses were timelier than expected based on the route schedules that we were provided with. Both new and returning staff have acclimated to their new routines and students seem to be happy!

Data on Student Progress:

Student SBAC and NGSS scores have been released to districts. We just received family reports and we will get these out in the mail as soon as possible. Mr. Kernan will share Eastford achievement and growth data and other comparison information at the meeting.

Professional Development:

- Our strategic improvement plan has been updated for 2023-2026. I will share the plan with staff in the upcoming weeks and with the Curriculum Committee at the next scheduled meeting.
- Mrs. Kopplin and I will participate in monthly support groups and trainings to update and complete the NAEYC portfolio requirements.

Community and other events:

- On August 28 we had our annual inspection from the Eastford Fire Marshal. No code violations were identified, and a certificate of approval was recommended.
- Dr. Boucher was onsite on September 6 to conduct sports physicals.
- Our first soccer game will be at home on September 19 against Parish Hill.
- EES Open House for PK-8 and High School information booths: September 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. PTO will sponsor an ice cream social in conjunction with this event.
- The Woodstock Academy will hold a grade 8 student open house on September 20 for all sending towns.
- School pictures with Irvin Simon Photographers will be on September 27.
- On September 28, EastConn Transportation will conduct school bus evacuation drills with students as they arrive at school in the morning.
- The CT State Police will again be offering the D.A.R.E. program to schools. Students in grades 5-7 will participate in this 10 week course beginning in January, 2024. The D.A.R.E. trooper will also hold a social media information session for grade 8 students.
- I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to local businesses and community members who contributed donations to fund the installation of safety bollards in the front of the building.