



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: December 7, 2023
 Subject: December Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Students in grades PK, K, 2, 3, and 4 will take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Smithsonian Museum of Art	Artful Movement	Grade 2	12/12/2023
Center for Puppetry Arts	Gingerbread Boy	Grades 1 and 2	12/18/2023
Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center	Math Activities with Mrs. Claus	Grade 2	12/20/2023
Kenai Fjords National Park	Fabulous Fjords	Grade 4	02/09/2024

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program is full with 17 Readiness students and one non-Readiness, part-time student.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The January meeting is an exception and will be held on Thursday, January 4 at 5:30 p.m. The Council continues to work on aligning policies with updated NAEYC Standards and to prepare for our 5-year NAEYC reaccreditation – due in April 2024. The Council is also learning more about the change in Kindergarten entry age and the impact it will have on our Readiness Program.

Data on Student Progress:

First trimester report cards will be sent home with students on December 7 and parent teacher conferences are scheduled for December 8 in the afternoon and December 11 in the evening. Students in grade 5-8 will conduct Student Led Conferences. Preschool through grade 4 will hold traditional conferences.

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.

Grade 8 has 11 students. This is what they are currently considering:

The Woodstock Academy: 5 are interested in attending

Ellis Tech: 6 are applying (2 likely to attend WA)

E. O. Smith: 2 expressed interest. Both will likely attend WA

Killingly Ag-Ed: 0

QMC: 0

ACT: 0

Community and other events:

- Thanks to the parents and staff who volunteered to organize and follow through with the annual Goods and Services Auction. The Auction was once again very successful, raising \$9,085.01. This will be divided among the accounts for grades 5-8. Grade 8 will take a few extended day trips toward the end of the year because they visited Washington, D.C. last year.
- December 8 will be a busy day at EES. We have an early dismissal for conferences, we will announce the winner and unveil the new school sign, and we will have our first trimester awards ceremony. Students and staff are participating in a “Pajama Day” fundraiser to benefit CT Children’s Medical Center.
- Students in grades 4-6 had the option to create an artifact in art class to enter in the “This Is Me” art exhibit at The Woodstock Academy Loos Center for the Arts. Twenty-eight students will have their art displayed in the Gallery. The Gallery is open to the public on Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. between December 23 and January 24.
- The Giving Tree will be up in the school lobby until January 5. The PTO will use proceeds to support local families and the Eastford Food Pantry.
- Students in grade 5 will be participating in a year-long, inter-district opportunity through a grant provided by EastConn. The project is called Faces of Culture. Each participating district will focus on a culture from around the world. Our fifth graders will meet via Zoom calls, field trips and in-class visits with fifth graders from other districts to learn about and explore the peoples and cultures that are different than those here in Eastford.
- The After School Grant from last year is funding multiple opportunities for student enrichment during the after-school hours. Currently, we have weekly visits by Mystic Seaport, and Board Games scheduled on a regular basis. STEM activities and Academic Support have been added in November. We still have not received word on receipt of the grant for this school year.
- Thank you to The Eastford Food Pantry for their continued support of our families in need of regular food delivery, and to The Eastford Baptist Church and the Woodstock Fire Department for holiday donations of toys and other items for students and families in need. These and other local organizations have been a tremendous resource to our families during the holidays and throughout the year.

- Thank you to Michelle Bibeault for organizing and staffing the Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair is open from December 4 – December 8, with evening hours on December 7.
- There will be a school-wide spirit week the week of December 18. Each day will feature a different theme. All are encouraged to participate.
- Instrumental teacher Mrs. Farrell-Denke is organizing a musical event for students who play an instrument on Friday, December 22. They will perform in the school gym at 2:00 p.m. followed by a holiday sing-along. Families are welcome to attend.
- Principal for the Day Brett Bibeault will be organizing special activities for staff and students on Friday, December 22.
- Students earning Honor Roll and Recognition for the first trimester will have an Honor Roll “breakfast” on Friday, December 22.