



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: January 3, 2024
 Subject: January 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):

DC Area National Parks and Partners	Dr. King in Washington, DC	Grade 4	01/11/2024
Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art	Lunar New Year	Grades 1 and 2	01/19/2024
Roper Mountain	Wagons West	Grade 4	02/06/2024
Kenai Fjords National Park	Fabulous Fjords	Grade 4	02/09/2024
Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	04/12/2024

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 p.m. 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. The Council proposes changing the preschool entry age to September 1 to align with the change in the K-entry date change.

Data on Student Progress:

Second trimester mid-term progress report cards will be sent home with students on January 19. We continue working with students in grades 5-8 to develop learning portfolios of student work that they will be able to share with parents during our spring conference times. 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 grades 2-8 will also take the NWEA assessment in Language Arts, Math and Science in March. These results are used to monitor student progress toward mastering standards.

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. Anticipated attendance numbers are below.

The Woodstock Academy: 7

Ellis Tech: 4

E. O. Smith: 0

Killingly Ag-Ed: 0

QMC: 0

ACT: 0

Professional Development:

- Beginning in February, a team of teachers and administrators will participate in a series of monthly reading workshops required by the State Department of Education about the Science of Reading and the fundamentals of a well-rounded ELA program.
- Mrs. Kopplin and I attend monthly meetings to support our development of a portfolio that documents how we meet the NAEYC standards for our NAEYC reaccreditation. I attend an additional monthly NAEYC meeting for Readiness Program Administrators as well.
- ELA teachers continue to work with EastConn staff to support us in selecting a state approved program for teaching ELA in grades K-3 and to support us in continuing to develop curricular documents around reading and writing.

Community and other events:

- 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.
- 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.
- PTO will sponsor a *Cookie and Craft* activity for students at the Eastford Public Library on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Student Council will sponsor a school dance for students in grades 5-8 on Friday, January 19, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

- The After School Grant from last year is funding multiple opportunities for student enrichment during the after-school hours. Currently, we have bi-monthly visits by Mystic Seaport, and Board Games scheduled on a regular basis. STEM activities and Academic Support were added in November. We were notified in late December that we again received the grant. We were awarded \$91,667.00 to fund programming through 2025. With these funds, we will begin to expand our programming based on student interests.
- 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.
- Thanks to Dennis Norman (a mobile Welder) who donated his time and resources to fabricate a more visually appealing and functional railing for the stairs and landing outside of the kindergarten classroom by the front play area.
- Thanks to the staff members, families, and EMS workers who assisted students after a tree was uprooted during a storm on December 18.