



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: February 1, 2024
 Subject: February 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.
- Students in grades 3-6 will attend a musical production called *Be True to You* at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on February 22.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 will attend Salt Marsh Opera’s production of Ravel’s *The Child and the Spells* at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on March 27.
- Students in grades 3-5 will attend the Azul String Quartet thematic presentation at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on March 28. The Azul String Quartet is made up of faculty members at the Hartt Community Division in West Hartford.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art	Lunar New Year	Grades 1 and 2	02/02/2024
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. We are currently providing walk-in special education services to one student, with two more being evaluated in the upcoming month.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The February meeting will be held on February 6 at 5:30 PM. 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 is discussing the feasibility of meeting the needs of Eastford resident preschoolers. The annual Readiness Needs Assessment was mailed to 44 families on January 23. The mailing went to all families that we are aware of that have young children ages birth to four-years old.

Data on Student Progress:

Second trimester mid-term progress report cards were 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, the application process, and how to schedule a time to shadow an upperclassman at one of our high schools. This information is available on her website, in the Newsletter and on a bulletin board near her office.

Grade 8 has 11 students. We anticipate the following attendance numbers. Students should begin receiving notices of acceptance by the end of February.

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. This will continue through December.
- 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.
- I recently visited Scotland and Andover Elementary Schools to discuss how they expanded their preschool/Readiness programs.

- On February 16 staff will have professional development around the use of AI for lesson planning, differentiation, translating for students just learning English, and other aspects of education and curriculum development.

Community, other events, and recognition:

- 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 people and cultures that are different than those here in Eastford.
- On February 5, students in the younger grades will celebrate the 100th day of school with special activities.
- On February 6, preschool staff will host a Winter Wonderland activity and craft for current preschoolers and their families.
- All grades will celebrate Global School Play Day on February 7.
- On February 12, Sally Rogers will present a program for kindergarteners called the “The Science of Sound”.
- The PTO will sponsor an assembly from the CT Science Center for the whole school on February 15.
- February 16 will be an early release day for students. Staff will participant in professional development.
- On Saturday, February 24, the Eastford Congregational Church will host Cupcake Wars at the school from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.
- The February calendar of after school academic and enrichment activities was published with the February Newsletter on February 1. More offerings will be added for March. These are all funded through the After School Grant.
- During Health classes, students in grade 5-8 will be learning the basics of CPR and First Aid through lessons taught by Mrs. Jeannine Spink. Grade 8 students will receive CPR/First Aid certification.
- Grade 5 students are participating in the D.A.R.E. program through CT State Police. Students will meet with the D.A.R.E. officer once per week through mid-April.
- **Congratulations and special thanks** to Mr. James Salsich for applying for and receiving a grant from the National Education Association. Mr. Salsich has generously donated \$4,280 of grant funds to EES to purchase books, supplies, and transportation for field trips for middle school students as part of a grant funded project called Amplifying Voices that involves research, reading, writing, speaking, and presenting their work.