



Shaping Futures Together

March
2024

From the Principal's Desk

March has arrived and it seems that the predictions of an early spring made by the Groundhog and Scramble are coming true! It is hard to believe that daylight savings time begins on March 10 and that spring officially begins a week later on March 20. We have some crocuses coming up in the garden under the office windows and more birds are coming to the feeder each week. It will be interesting to see what the weather has in store for us this month! Will the warming trend continue or will we be surprised with another blast of winter?

Regardless of the weather, there is always a lot going on across the grades at school. The week of March 4, students and staff will be celebrating Read Across America and the joys of literacy. Each day during the week is marked with a special reading-related theme in honor of Theodore Geisel's birthday on March 2. Students are invited to dress up according to the daily themes. The flyer for the specific theme days is included later in this Newsletter. Students in grades 6-8 will welcome Judge Erik Lohr to read to students and to learn more about the process of becoming a Judge. Students in all grades will have a special focus on reading and literacy throughout the week.

Our second trimester closes on March 8 and **report cards** will be sent home with students on **March 15**. Second Trimester awards will be presented to students in an assembly on Thursday morning, March 28 and students earning Honor Roll distinction will receive certificates and be provided with some breakfast treats to recognize their accomplishments. **Students in grades 5-8 will assemble at 9:00 for their awards. Students in grades 2-4 will assemble at about 9:20 for their awards.**

Parent conferences are also quickly approaching. We will offer evening times on March 27 and afternoon times on March 28. Please look for communication from your child's teachers about scheduling a time to discuss your child's progress. **Students in grades 5-8 will be holding student-led conferences and traditional conferences will be held at all other grades.**

Eastford students, along with all other Connecticut students in grades 3-8, will be taking the **Smarter Balanced test (SBAC)** and students in grades 5 and 8 will

also be taking the **Next Generation Science test (NGSS)** beginning in late April. More information on specific dates will follow as we move closer to April. Prior to that, all students in grades 2-8 will take the NWEA computer adaptive assessments for reading, language, math, and science. The results of these assessments help us understand how your child is progressing toward meeting grade level standards and will help to inform appropriate instruction for your child.

We continue to accept both **preschool and kindergarten registrations for the 2024-2025 school year**. Students currently in preschool **do not** need to register for kindergarten, but please spread the word if you know others in town who are eligible to attend either preschool or kindergarten. Registration information is available on the school website. Click on the 'For Families' tab and then 'Forms.'

Please be aware that recent **Connecticut Legislation** has changed the **entry age cut-off date for kindergarten entry from January 1 to September 1**. This means that to be eligible for kindergarten a child must turn 5 years old by September 1 of the year they plan to enter kindergarten. Allowances may be made in special circumstances. Please see additional information in this newsletter for further details and feel free to call if you have questions.

A special note – the Eastford Board of Education has submitted the Education Budget for the 2024-2025 school year to the Board of Selectmen for review. The Town will post dates for the budget hearing and town vote on their website.

Please read through the entire Newsletter for additional information regarding upcoming activities, events, and fundraisers, and don't hesitate to contact the school if you have questions or concerns.








Read Across America Literacy Spirit Week

March 4, 2024 - March 8, 2024

Did you know that just 15 minutes of reading a day can boost your imagination, knowledge, and vocabulary? Join Eastford Elementary as we celebrate the joy of reading for EVERYONE!

So, what are you waiting for? Grab a book, put on your thinking cap (or your wizarding robe!), and join us for a Week of Reading! It's going to be an epic literary adventure!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	3/8
<p>Hats off to a week of reading!</p>  <p>Wear a comfy, silly, or favorite hat.</p>	<p>Reading knocks your socks off!</p>  <p>Wear silly, mismatched or warm socks.</p>	<p>Read my shirt!</p>  <p>Wear a school appropriate shirt that others can read.</p>	<p>Reading makes you powerful!</p>  <p>Show off your inner superhero by wearing a superhero shirt.</p>	<p>Reading builds community!</p>  <p>Dress in the school colors, blue and white, to cheer on all the readers at EES!</p>



2024

March

Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednesday* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

notes

EES AFTER-SCHOOL EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE 3:45 - 4:45 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

					Laser Tag Gr 7 & 8	
					1	2
3	Trees & Seeds Gr 4-8	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	Chorus Gr 3-8	Ragged Hill Woods Gr 2-5	Laser Tag Gr 5 & 6	
4		Board Games: Gr. K-2 5 3:30 - 4:30	Lasers Tag Gr 5 & 6	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	8	9
	Mystic: Astronomy Gr. 1-4	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	Chorus Gr 3-8	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	Middle School Dance Gr 5 - 8 6 - 8 pm	
10		12	13	14	15	16
17	Habitat Helpers Gr 4 - 6	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	Chorus Gr 3-8	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	Movie: Aladdin 3:30 - 5:10 Gr K - 8	
		Board Games: Gr. 3 & 4 (3:30-4:30)		Volleyball Gr 6-8	22	23
24	31	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8	Chorus Gr 3-8 3:45 - 4:45	Early Release	NO SCHOOL	
	Mystic: Astronomy Gr. 1-4	Volleyball Gr 6-8	27	28	29	30

@Color Nation



JOIN US FOR OUR
FIRST IN PERSON
MEETING



TUESDAY

MARCH 12, 2024

6:00PM



IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 937 6829 9983

PASSCODE: 675504

IN PERSON MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE EASTFORD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.



EES PTO

March Newsletter

Month in Review

We want to take this time to thank everyone who participated in our first Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Proceeds collected will go towards the assembly we held last month. On February 15th the children were able to observe a science assembly. During this they learned about liquid nitrogen and combustion.

- We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the parent teacher conference dinner. Please go to the link below to sign up.

[Conference Dinner & Dessert Sign Up Sheet - Google Docs](#)

Next Agenda

- March 12th: PTO meeting in person and via zoom.
- March 15-29: Spring Fundraiser. Catalog will be sent home to order from
- March 27: PTO Sponsored Parent Teacher Conference Dinner

Contact Info: Mary DeGostin & Aliesha Lynch - PTO Chairs



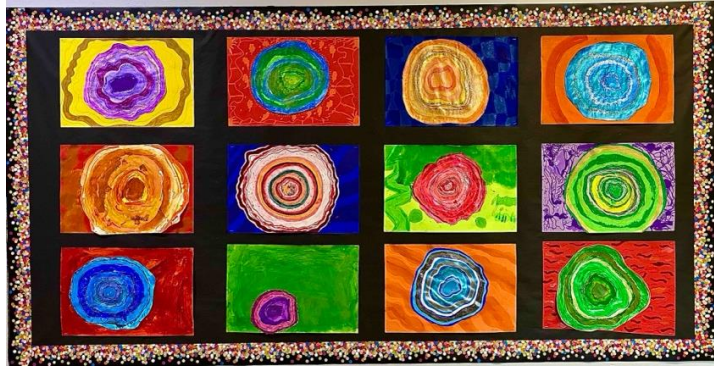
Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or ideas via email at pto@eastfordct.org. Additionally, we invite you to connect with us on Facebook by liking and following our page.

Art News – Ms. Weinland



George Rodrigue Blue Dogs

In their art class, grade seven students learned about the vibrant world of renowned artist George Rodrigue and his iconic Blue Dog paintings. Inspired by Rodrigue's unique style, the students reproduced their own interpretation of the famous blue dog. Each artwork was given a distinct title, reflective of the student's personal connection to the artwork and their understanding of Rodrigue's impactful contribution to the art world.



Geodes in Analogous Colors – Grades 5 and 6



Faces of Culture Grade 5 Field Trip, Part two

Grade 5 students attended a field trip to EastConn, facilitated by the Faces of Culture Interdistrict Grant Program, where they immersed themselves in another day of team building, cultural competency lessons, and emotional regulation. Students participated in four workshops covering Yoga, Aztec mask making, mindfulness bottles, and “Getting to Know You” games. There will be one more fieldtrip in May to the New Britain Museum of American Art, where students will walk in the shoes of a museum docent for the day, gaining valuable insight into the significance of this position.



Water Color Tulips with Wax Resist –Grade One



The Exquisite Corpse, a 1920s Parlor Game – Grade 7



More from the Clay Adventure



Patterned Ice Cream Cones – Grade 2



Enrichment News –Mrs. Lynch



March Enrichment News from Mrs. Lynch

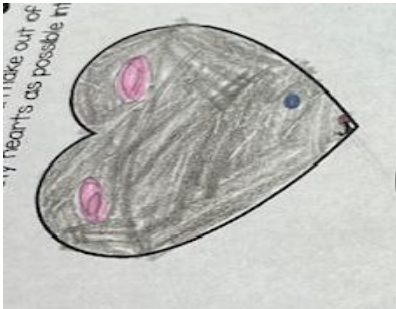
February has been a busy month for Enrichment! Students are continuing to work on their individual projects. They are carefully and responsibly using online sources as well as books from our own Eastford Elementary School Library to conduct their research.

In honor of Valentine’s Day, our students participated in a Creativity Challenge. They were each given a worksheet with a series of hearts. They were then challenged to turn each of the hearts into something else, with a three-minute time constraint. After a little bit of independent brainstorming, these are just some of what they created! Please notice the different orientation used in each heart (because it’s always a good idea to look at things from a different perspective!).

A dog’s nose



A mouse in profile



A heart within a heart, acting as an arrow



Donna R. Lynch, Enrichment

Grade K News – Ms. Garvie

This past month has been a very busy time in the Kindergarten class! We started the month with the 100th day of school! The kids made shirts at home with 100 items on them and wore them to school. Then we had a fashion show in class and a school-wide 100th day parade. We also did a 100th day workout, made 100 pasta necklaces, and even built a tower with 100 cups. It was such a fun-filled day!!!

Then on February 7, it was Global School Play Day. Children were able to have extra playtime and bring a game from home to play with their friends.

In math, we finished our unit about addition and subtraction and now we are starting to decompose and compose numbers within 10. Our science lessons included finishing up our unit on polar animals and then learning all about beavers!

Other exciting events included our Valentine's celebration, a presentation from the CT Science Center and a Science of Sound lesson with local musician, Sally Rogers. Then we ended the month with a PJ day because we filled our pom-pom jar by being kind and respectful!





Enjoy

these pictures from the month of February!





Grade 2 News – Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln

Read Across America

On February 29, grade 2 will kick off the Read Across America celebration with a special Read Around the Planet teleconference. We will enjoy reading the story, *Otto the Otter: A Big Surprise* with others from around the world. Students will engage with a social-emotional supported fact-based narrative that will highlight creatures that live in a freshwater habitat. We will also get to visit the Mote Aquarium, home to some North American River Otters and we will have the opportunity to interact with the marine biologists who care for them. The following week EES will kick off a school-wide Read Across America celebration. Remember to check your Read Across America Literacy Spirit Week flyer that was previously sent home if you would like to participate in the dress-up for literacy days! Monday, March 4 is “Hats Off to a Week of Reading Day!” On this special day, students at EES are invited to wear a comfy, silly, or favorite hat. Join in the fun!

HOW DOES MY READING SOUND?

Second graders are practicing and perfecting their reading fluency. We had the pleasure of practicing fluency with our grade 7 book buddies at the end of February. Phrasing, expression, attention to text, and persistence are the four areas of focus.

PHRASING: I read phrases that are meaningful and make sense. My reading sounds smooth.

EXPRESSION: My voice matches the feeling of the character and the tone of the text.

ATTENTION TO TEXT: I used my voice to pop out important words, phrases, and punctuation.

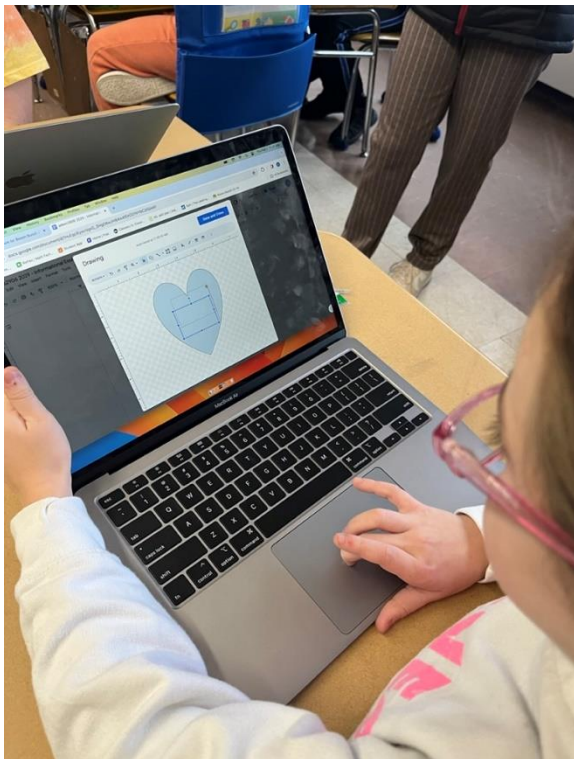
PERSISTENCE: I read smoothly at a just-right pace the **WHOLE** time!



Grade 3 News – Mrs. Bisson

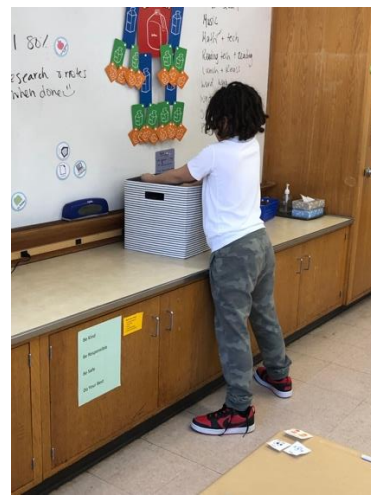
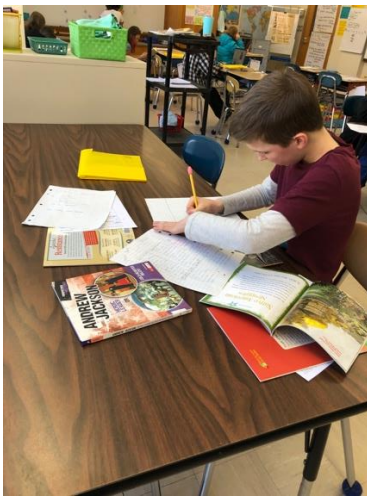
Third Graders have been working extremely hard in math. We began multiplying one-digit by two-digit numbers using lots of different strategies including drawings, repeated addition, skip counting, base ten blocks, and eventually, the area model method. The area model strategy helps us learn to visualize numbers and then multiply numbers easily and add mentally to find the product. We started with multiples of 10, then we worked with trickier two-digit numbers.

During writing, we put the finishing touches on our informational essays. Writers chose a topic they are “experts” in and then used lots of writing strategies to help teach the reader new information using bold words, fun fact boxes, glossaries, and chapters. Once we drafted our essays, we used Google Docs to publish our work. We learned about all the different tools that Google Docs has to help us make our essays look like the Nonfiction texts in our classroom libraries.



Grade 4 News – Ms. Dill

Grade 4 learners have been ‘marching’ their way west as they learn about the United States of America. Students have been immersing themselves in the vast plains, Great Lakes, and Mississippi/Missouri River systems. This has led them to uncover the region's rich history and diverse landscapes, which impacted its unique culture and traditions that shaped the Midwest and nation. Through interactive reading and research projects on various topics (Lewis and Clark, the Transcontinental Railroad, the Oregon Trail, Tornado Alley, the Gold Rush, the Trail of Tears, and famous figures like Buffalo Bill, Laura Ingalls-Wilder, and Annie Oakley) they are gaining a deeper appreciation for the Midwest's importance in our nation.



Math News – Mrs. Barlow

Middle School Math



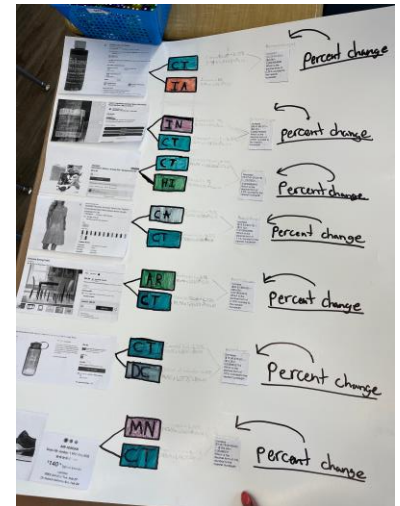
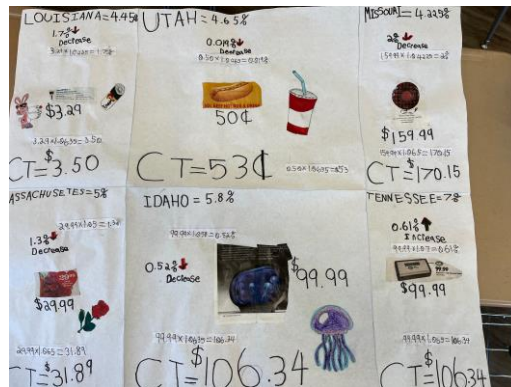
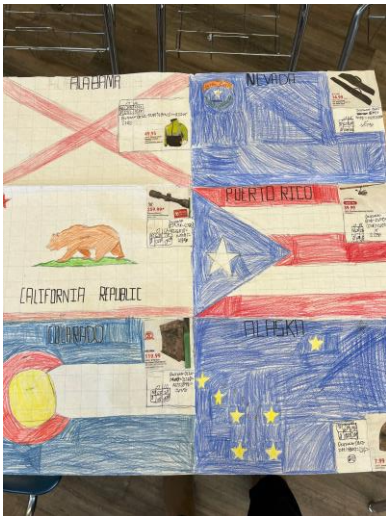
Grade 5: Teaching kids to divide by fractions and have it make sense is tricky. The easiest way I can explain it is if you purchase 10 lbs of flour and each recipe uses $\frac{1}{4}$ of an lb, how many recipes can you make before you run

out? It is hard for students to grasp that your answer is bigger when you divide by a fraction.

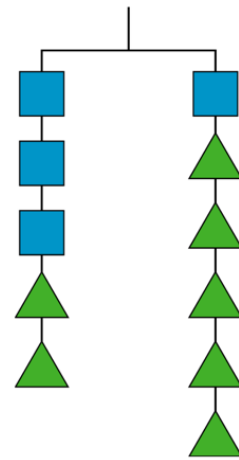
Grade 6 will be starting a new unit where they will refresh their memories on dividing with fractions. They will start using their estimation skills, which will then develop into the algorithm of multiplying by the reciprocal when dividing fractions. How many of each of these items would be in a 5 ft stack?



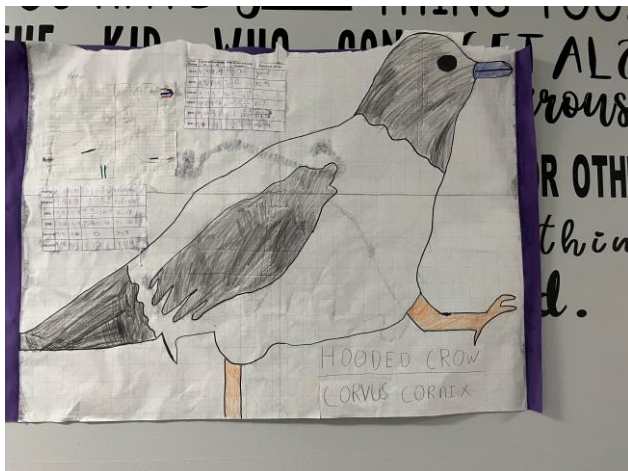
Grade 7: Grade 7 finished their state tax projects. See a few examples of the finished products below. We have now moved on to understanding and using negative numbers. Real-world contexts make this easier when discussing temperature, elevation, or money in an account.

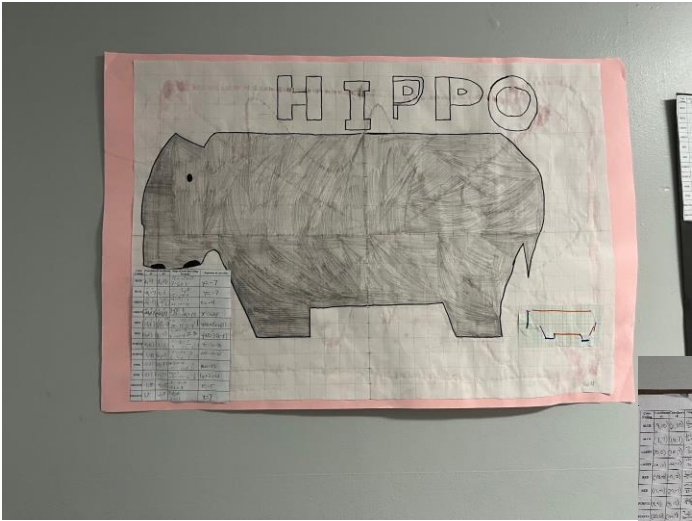


Grade 8: Grade 8 is finishing their current unit on linear equations. This will then lead them to use linear equations in systems of equations. Students will be reminded of how to solve algebraic equations using hanger diagrams. A hanger diagram is always balanced, and different shapes (representing variables or numbers) will be given different values. Students will be asked to find the values that work in each situation.



Algebra: We just finished the animal slope projects this week. Please see the picture below. I'm hoping this project gave the class some added practice with Linear Equations so they will be ready for the next unit. Like the Grade 8 math class, Algebra will also learn about Systems of Equations but will learn three ways to solve them.





ELA – Mr. Salsich

Greetings Families,

As we approach the end of another enriching period of learning, I'm happy to share some achievements and upcoming plans with you.

Our students have been diligently crafting narratives, pouring their creativity onto the pages. I'm delighted to announce that our seventh and eighth graders have impressed me with an average of 10 pages for their first drafts! Their dedication and talent shine brightly, and I couldn't be prouder. For our fifth and sixth graders, the finishing line for their first drafts approaches, scheduled for this Friday, March 1. Let's cheer them on as they put the final touches on their captivating stories.

Looking ahead, our next literary adventure awaits as we delve back into the realm of persuasive writing. Inspired by stories of young changemakers around the globe, each student will embark on their own Make a Difference Project, advocating for causes close to their hearts. I'm eager to witness the passion and conviction they bring to this challenge.

Celebrations from the Month:

Last week, our fifth graders embarked on an unforgettable journey to EastConn for our Faces of Culture field trip. Connecting with their pen pals from Windham Center School was a highlight of the day, and I'm thrilled to share that we'll soon be fostering these newfound friendships through letters. Stay tuned for more details about this correspondence. As we look ahead, our next adventure under this grant will take us to the New Britain Art Museum, promising more enriching experiences and cherished memories.

Additional Information:

Judge Eric Lohr will be joining the middle school on Tuesday, March 5 as part of Read Across America Week. His visit promises to inspire our young readers. He will help kick off our Making a Difference projects by sharing some stories about young changemakers.

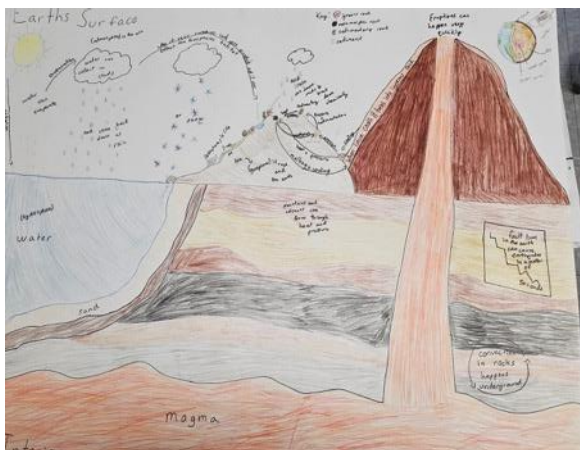
Warm regards,

James Salsich

Science News – Mrs. Mead



Student Council extends a giant Thank You to everyone who contributed to our animal rescue fundraiser this month and shared their pets on our bulletin board!. Thank you for supporting both the Student Council and our community organizations.



Grade 7 students have developed a variety of models to explain the connection between Earth's systems and the flow of energy within and between them.



Grade 6 chemistry partners are diving deep into the periodic table of elements!

Social Studies News – Mr. Kernan

Grade 5

As the calendar turns to March, hopefully the warmer weather moves in sooner rather than later. As grade 5 turns the calendar to March, we are right in the middle of our study of the American Revolution. Students have been able to demonstrate their understanding of our essential question, “When is war justified,” and now we are turning our attention to the next essential question, “How did the development of the colonies and the American Revolution contribute to an American identity?”

This question, as well as our essential understanding of what it means to be an American, will be the focus of our work in March. We will consider the impact of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and several others on our American identity and way of life. We will gain an understanding of the two economic worlds, industrialization and agriculture, that began to foster an early American identity. We will also look at the impact slavery had on the American identity. Grade 5 will also gain an initial understanding of the role of women and their impact in our early years.

Grade 6 - 7

Our middle school classes have finished up their unit of study on the Great Depression. We will continue to work on our stock market project. Students have gained an understanding of some of the complexities that impact the market. We explored why the Crash of 1929 occurred not only here in the United States but around the world. We are also experiencing the impact of events on the current market. We’ve learned that we can’t “get rich quick.” However, we have also learned that competition can be good for the consumer.

Next, we will be learning about how World War II impacted and contributed to America being a “just” society. In examining World War II, we will consider the viewpoints of Jews and others who were victimized by the Nazi regime. This is a popular unit of study for students so you may be in for some conversations after school.

Grade 8

In grade 8, students will be beginning their study of the Civil War. We have two major themes at the time of this publication; one is learning how the Civil War evolved and how it was won. Secondly, students will be working on a podcast that will feature Ulysses S. Grant. The research for the podcast is a student’s attempt to demonstrate their knowledge of a topic pertaining to the Civil War and his/her ability to support a thesis through research and dialogue. The podcast is a new way to do the work of a research paper. I am hoping this builds engagement. Each student will prepare research and a podcast on Ulysses S. Grant. In the past, a research paper may have been 4-6 pages of written content. The podcast, since it is recorded, creates about 25-30 pages of content. We are looking forward to this adventure.

P. E. & Health – Mr. Cody



P.E:

Grades K-2: The students are continuing to learn how to move with a purpose through play. This unit they are working on listening skills, team building, and coordination through guided discovery. Students have been using tag games, hula hoops, pool noodles and cotton balls to advance various skills. Parachute games and activities will be introduced soon. Ask your kiddo about the games! We are having a blast!



Grades 3-8: The students will continue to work on collaboration and teamwork through recreational games and sport activities. As hockey comes to an end, students will have a few choice days before starting a basketball unit. Sportsmanship, fairness, effort, and integrity will continue to be a major focus.



Middle School Health:

Grades 5 – 8: Students have been delving into the important and life-saving topics of CPR and first aid. We have focused on basic first aid principles, CPR for adults, children, and infants, and how to respond to common emergencies. Below are a few key areas of focus. Ms. Spink has done a great job getting students up to date with age-appropriate skills. We have worked very hard during February, and the unit will continue for the first several classes into March.

We encourage parents to engage in conversations with their children about what they are learning. This creates an opportunity for reinforcing the importance of these skills.

IMPORTANT: Grades 5-8 will start reviewing our state guided reproduction unit late March. Due to the maturity of our students, and community support, this unit went very well last year. I will be sending out an email identical to the post below. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out. I would be happy to meet in person, phone, or email.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to take a moment to inform you about an upcoming topic that we will be covering in health class. Starting late March we will be covering the reproduction unit. Throughout this unit, we will be following the guidance of our health textbook and state standards to ensure that your child receives accurate and appropriate information about this important topic. We will cover a wide range of subjects related to reproduction, including anatomy and sexually transmitted infections.

It is our goal to provide your child with a comprehensive understanding of these topics in a safe and supportive environment. We will create an open and honest dialogue about these sensitive subjects and ensure that all questions are answered in a respectful and informative manner.

If you have any questions about this unit, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, the school administration, or Ms. Schleicher (Murana).

*Thank you for your continued support,
Mr. Cody*





New Entry Age for Kindergarten IN CONNECTICUT



Information for Families – February 2024

★ The Kindergarten Entry Age is Changing in Connecticut ★

Starting in the 2024-25 school year, children must be 5 years old
on or before September 1st, 2024, to start kindergarten.*

★ **What if my child turns 5 after September 1, 2024?**

If your child turns 5 after September 1, 2024, they will start kindergarten in the fall of 2025.

★ **What if my child turns 5 after September 1, 2025?**

If your child turns 5 after September 1, 2025, they will start kindergarten in the fall of 2026. This age change is permanent with children having to turn 5 years old on or before September 1st of each year to start kindergarten.

★ **Are there exceptions for children who do not meet the new entry cutoff date?**

Yes. If your child is not 5 years old by September 1, 2024, and you want them to start kindergarten early, you must request an exception.

★ **How do I request early entry to kindergarten?**

- ★ **Parents (or guardians) should first reach out to the principal of the elementary school their child would attend to find out how to request early entry to kindergarten.**

Each school district will have their own process to follow. Contact information for all Connecticut school principals is available on the [Find Contacts website](#).

- ★ **The school must conduct an assessment.**

After receiving a request for an exception from a parent (or guardian), the school must assess your child to determine if early entry to kindergarten is developmentally appropriate for your child. Parent information and observation may be a part of this assessment. Communicate with the school principal regarding your child's development and whether the kindergarten classroom is an appropriate fit.

** About the new state law: In 2023, the Connecticut Legislature changed how old a child must be to start kindergarten. [Public Act 23-208, Section 1\(a\)](#) changed the birth date cutoff date from January 1 of any given school year to September 1 of any given school year.*

Connecticut State Department of Education | Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

Making the Decision to Ask for Early Kindergarten Entry

Moving on to kindergarten is a transition for young children and their families. We know that children learn and grow in different ways and at different times.

When deciding whether to ask for an early entry to kindergarten for your child you may want to consider your child's learning and development, the learning environment in kindergarten, and what your child's experience might be if they did not enter kindergarten. You may consider whether they have had a preschool experience and what type of experience is available for them in the coming year.

The resources below will help you think about each of these things.

Understanding Your Child's Learning and Development

Families know their children best, and what they know can be informed by tools and resources to understand child development. Child development is the term used to describe how children grow and learn in different areas of their life. It includes how they talk and read, how they feel and get along with others, how they express themselves through art and music, how they think and understand the world, how they move and use their body, and how they approach new challenges and problems.

[The Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards \(CT ELDS\)](#) were developed to help families, communities, and schools work together to support children's early learning and growth. They describe what young children ages 0 to 5 generally know and are able to do. The [CT ELDS Strategies for Learning at Home](#) include fun and easy ideas for supporting learning at home and in the community and are available in English and Spanish.

Tools and Resources

Connecticut offers many resources that can help families answer common questions about their child's development and support learning at home. The resources below help families with questions or concerns about their child and can be a helpful resource when talking with the school principal when requesting early entry into kindergarten.

- * Talk with your child care provider or play group leader to understand how your child uses their skills in a group setting and to get connected to supports to strengthen your child's development.
- * [2-1-1 Child Development](#) Infoline helps families understand their child's needs and answer questions about child health, behavior, development, and learning through multiple programs including:
 - * [Help Me Grow](#), a FREE statewide program starting at pregnancy that connects families and children to community services and resources. Call 1-800-505-7000 to reach a care coordinator.
 - * [The Ages and Stages Questionnaires \(ASQ-3\)](#) is a developmental

screening tool supported by the CT Office of Early Childhood. You can enroll in CT's Ages and Stages Monitoring program for FREE. Contact 2-1-1 Child Development, answer a few questions and begin to keep track of your child's development from 2 months to 5 years of age. You can complete it on paper, online, or through the free Sparkler App. Families can also get help completing the ASQ-3 through [CT Help Me Grow](#).

- * [The Sparkler app](#) is a free tool that provides an easy way for families to access the [Ages and Stages Questionnaires](#) on a mobile application. It helps parents check in on how their child is doing against key milestones from 2 months to 5 years of age — and provides fun activities to spark your child's growing mind, body, emotions, and words. Visit [Sparkler](#) to learn how you can download the app and get started today.

Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are entitled to the same process utilized for early entry to kindergarten that is available to all children.

- * Visit the [Connecticut State Department of Education's Preschool Special Education](#) website for guidance on education for children with developmental delays or disabilities.
- * Contact the [Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center \(CPAC\)](#) online or at 1-800-445-2722 for information or support with the special education referral process. CPAC is fully staffed by families of students with disabilities including bilingual Spanish, Portuguese, Creole, and French speaking Parent Consultants.
- * If your child is under 3 years old and you have a concern about their development, you can make a referral to the Connecticut Birth to Three system for a free developmental evaluation by calling 1-800-505-7000 or filling out the [Birth to Three online form](#).
- * If your child is already enrolled in Birth to Three and you have any concerns, you can find more information about your rights under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the dispute resolution process (for complaints) at <https://www.birth23.org/families/rights/mediation/>.

Understanding the Kindergarten Learning Environment

Young children thrive when the learning environment can meet their current needs and help them grow. It is important for families to make sure that their child and the school environment are a good fit. These tips and resources can help you know what to expect in kindergarten so that you can think about how your child's skills fit with the learning environment.

- * [The Hello Kindergarten! booklet \(English\)](#) and [\(Spanish\)](#) includes skills that are helpful for children as they enter kindergarten and ways you can support learning at home.

- * Although kindergarten classrooms share a common focus, the learning activities and instruction or curriculum may be different across districts. Talk with your school about their kindergarten program.
- * Some schools in Connecticut have started to include more purposeful play and project-based learning into kindergarten classrooms. Here are some examples of how schools are doing this:
 - * [Building Brains for the Future: A Look at Playful Learning in Preschool and Kindergarten](#)
 - * [A Virtual Field Trip - Oswegatchie Elementary School](#)

Help with Preschool for the 2024-25 School Year

Many families who have a child turning 5 years old between September 2, 2024, and January 1, 2025, were planning to send them to kindergarten before the cutoff date changed.

Below are resources for families and their children for the 2024-2025 school year.

- * If your child attends preschool, talk with the program about your family's situation and how they will continue to support your child's development if your child does not go to kindergarten.
- * If your child has not attended an early care and education program, consider how a preschool experience might support them before they enter kindergarten.
- * You can find information about child care by talking with other families, searching online, or using the [2-1-1 Child Care](#) online search tool.
- * If you need assistance with the cost of a preschool program, you can seek out possible supports, such as [Care 4 Kids](#), state-funded preschool opportunities, public school preschool programs, or Head Start. To find out about possible low-cost programs and Care 4 Kids financial assistance, contact [2-1-1 Child Care](#).

Connecticut State Department of Education | Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.



Experience Eastford 2024

The Eastford Recreation Commission is seeking vendors, exhibitors and volunteers for our 2024 Experience Eastford Day taking place May 11th at Eastford Elementary School.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Name of Committee/Business/Organization: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I/We would like to sign up as a: Vendor Exhibitor Volunteer

Preferred Method of Contact: Email Phone Text

I/We would like to request _____ Tables.

*Please note table coverings and/to tents are the responsibility of the vendor/exhibitor.

If you are interested in hosting space for your committee or business, please file request form online or by mail: Attention Recreation Commission, Eastford Town Office 16 Westford Road Eastford, CT 06242 or scan/email recofeastfordct@gmail.com. The **Deadline is : April 12th, 2024**

The Town of Eastford is an affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Experience Eastford

May 11th, 2024

10am-2pm

Craftpeople

Vendors

Exhibitors

Artists



WANTED!!!!



You have been invited to;

Exhibit your art, demonstrate your craft,
Offer your wares, showcase your business.

Rain or Shine

Please register Online or contact recofeastfordct@gmail.com to have form
emailed.

The Town of Eastford is an affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

FLORAL DESIGN NIGHT 2024

MARCH 6 6:30-8PM

BENEFITING THE WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP DAM PROJECT

SPONSORED BY



TheSunshineShop.net



JEWETT CITY FLORIST & GREENHOUSE

BINIENDA WHOLESALE FLORIST

D V F L O R A

Celebrating
**70**
1954-2024
Years
Windham-Tolland
4-H Camp



**\$70
PER PERSON**

Register Now

860-974-1122



Join us at

Windham- Tolland 4-H Camp

Main Lodge

326 Taft Pond Rd, Pomfret, CT

860-974-1122

<https://form.jotform.com/240164988660162>

FREE "WATER SAFETY LESSONS"

April 15th-19th

at HALE YMCA in PUTNAM



**FREE "Water Safety Lessons" offered during
April school vacation week.**

**Monday-Friday Classes, April 15th-19th for ages
3-12 at the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center
in Putnam, CT**

**5 Days of 45 minute classes emphasizing
YMCA's "Safety Around The Water" Program,
including basic self-rescue skills.**

Registration begins March 15th.

Space is limited.

(860)315-9622

haleYMCA.org



Kids of all ages are welcome with supervision

Eastford EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23, 2024

(Rain Date March 30, 2024)

10:00am start

Eastford Elementary School Back Field

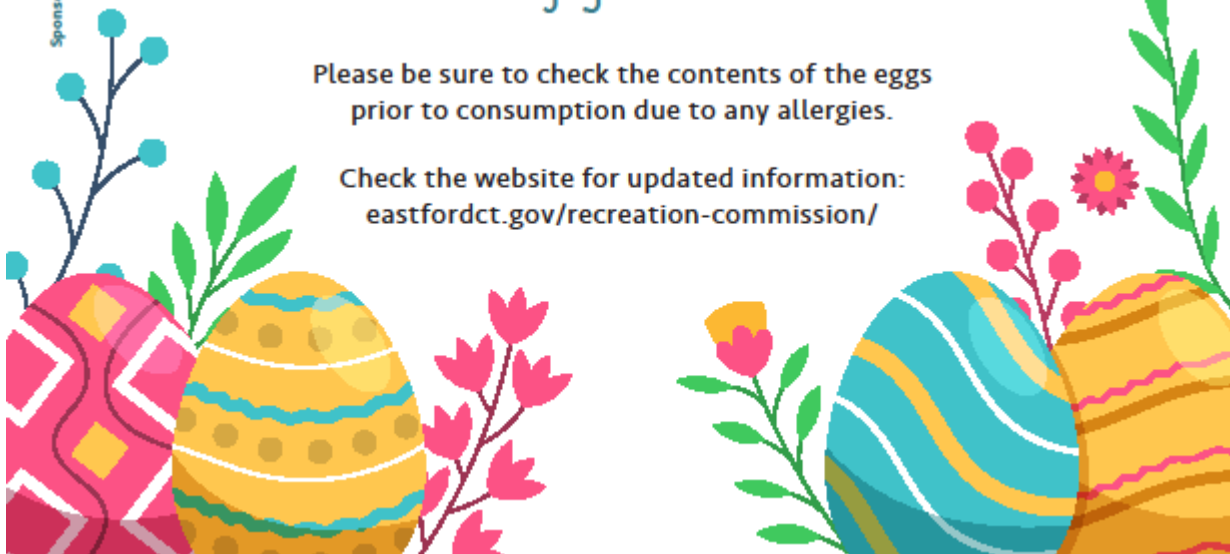
Sectioned into age-appropriate areas

Please Bring Your Own Basket

Please be sure to check the contents of the eggs prior to consumption due to any allergies.

Check the website for updated information:
eastfordct.gov/recreation-commission/

Sponsored by: The Eastford Recreation Commission



AGES 4-12

SENIORS 13-16



*Pomfret
Eastford Little
League*

BASEBALL

SOFTBALL

REGISTER AT:

**[HTTPS://LEAGUES.BLUESOMBRERO.COM
/POMFRETEASTFORDLL](https://leagues.bluesombbrero.com/pomfreeteastfordll)**

REGISTER BY 3.15.24

QUESTIONS: PELLBASEBALL@GMAIL.COM



WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP
326 Taft Pond Rd Pomfret, CT 06259
www.4hcampct.org



PUT SOME FUN IN YOUR 2024 SUMMER!
June 23 to August 16, 2024

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, located in Pomfret Center, Connecticut, has provided summer camp experiences for thousands of youngsters for over 69 years. The camp has both overnight and day camp programs for boys and girls 6-15 years of age. The camp is located on 270 acres containing woodlands, cabins, recreation areas and scenic lakes. The Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp maintains a state license and ACA accreditation. Campers need not be 4-H members.

Our caring, camper-centered, college-aged and trained staff is committed to providing a safe, educational, and fun experience for every child.

All campers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs each week including:

- Arts & Crafts
- Low and Mid High Ropes courses & Climbing wall
- Swimming
- Self-defense
- Fishing
- Sports
- Drama
- Dance
- Archery
- Outdoor Education
- Zip-line
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Knitting

4-H Camp offers a variety of specialty programs also available on a weekly basis for an additional cost.

Wood Fiber Crafts Horseback Riding, farm camp and cow camp

CAMP PRICING 2024

- Day Camp (ages 6-15)\$375 per week (Lunch & Snacks Included)
- Resident Camp (ages 9-15)\$585 per week
- Teen Leadership Program (ages 15-17) Starts at \$350
- Overnight Clover Camp (ages 7-8)\$310 per session (3 -day, 2 Night Sessions)



THEME WEEKS FOR 2024

- **Week 1 – June 23-June 28- Medieval Week**
- **Week 2 – June 30-July 5 – Minecraft Week**
- **Week 3 – July 7-12 – Carnival Week**
- **Week 4 – July 14-19 –Winter Extravaganza Week**
- **Week 5 – July 21-26 Olympics Week**
- **Week 6 – July 28- Aug 2 –International Week**
- **Week 7 – August 4-9 – Tropical Paradise Week**
- **Week 8 – August 12-16 – Capture the Flag! (Day Camp Only)**

Visit our **website at www.4hcampct.org** for Online Registration

E-mail us at registrar@4hcampct.org for a camp brochure or additional information or

Call the Camp Registrar at (860) 974-3379



OPEN HOUSES

Sunday January 7 & Sunday, February 18

Sunday March 24 & Saturday April 20

From 1:00 to 3:00 PM Each Day



OPEN HOUSE EXTRA – April 20

Please join us April 20 - 12:30 PM for an informational parent panel on the benefits of Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp for you and your child

An Equal Opportunity Program Provider and Employer

www.4hcampct.org

MARCH 24
1-3PM

WINDHAM TOLLAND 4-H CAMP



Meet Staff
Take Tours
Register for
camp



OPEN HOUSE

326 Taft Pond Rd
Pomfret Ctr, CT 06259

Licensed by the State of CT

860-974-3379

5K

May 11, 2024

Heart of EASTFORD



START TIME:

9:00AM

EARLY REGISTRATION:

\$40.00 Race Fee

\$45.00 after May 1, 2024

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

runsignup.com/Race/CT/Eastford/HeartOfEastford5k



Sponsored by Eastford Recreation Commission

WINDHAM- TOLLAND 4- H CAMP



CAMPER SCAMPER 5K



ADULTS \$30
KIDS \$10

5K RUN/WALK

& 1 MILE KIDS RUN

START FROM 326 TAFT POND RD POMFRET, CT

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

BENEFITS THE JIM LOGEE CAMBERSHIP FUND

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00AM **SCAN HERE TO REGISTER**

8:00AM

KIDS RACE STARTS AT 9:30AM

5K STARTS AT 10:00AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

860-974-1122



RACE TIMED BY
THE LAST MILE RACING

WWW.4HCAMPCT.ORG