



Shaping Futures Together

May 2024



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to May! With the warmer weather, we are reminded that the end of this school year is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that we only have about seven more weeks to this school year.

The **last day of school** will be **Friday, June 14**. This will be an early dismissal day (12:30) for students. We are in the process of planning graduation for our eighth graders. **Graduation** will take place in the gym on **Thursday, June 13 at 7:00 PM**. More information will be sent to eighth-grade families in the coming weeks so that you can plan for this important event.

Students should have brought home their third trimester mid-term progress reports on Monday, April 29. Please sign the envelopes and return them for our final report card on the last day of school.

Throughout the month of May, students in grades 3-8 will be participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessments and students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the Next Generation Science Assessment. Testing may create a few minor changes in scheduling to accommodate the extra time needed for some of the testing. Classroom teachers will communicate any impactful changes with you. Results of these standardized assessments should be available for families in early fall, 2024, and they will help to inform us of student growth and achievement and assist in planning our academic programs for next school year.

We have many classroom and school-wide events planned for the upcoming weeks and the calendar of after-school enrichment and academic events is included in this Newsletter as well. Please be sure that you are checking the Newsletter and communication from your child's teacher so that you don't miss any important information. Keep in mind that **May 17** will be an **early dismissal day** for students (12:30) so that staff may participate in professional learning, and on **Monday, May 27** there is no school in honor of the **Memorial Day holiday**. Students are invited to sing with the EES group during the town-wide Memorial Day celebration.

Our spring Scholastic Book Fair will take place **June 3 through June 7** in the school library. You will receive additional information about the book fair and how to register for *E-Wallet* so that you can shop online or put money in an account so that students do not need to bring cash to school to purchase books. Students will visit the book fair with their teachers during the week and there will be special evening hours when parents may visit the fair as well.

On **Wednesday, June 5 at 2:00 PM**, Mrs. Farrell-Denke and Mrs. Burns will host an instrumental and choral music performance for students. Beginner and Advanced bands, recorders, and the after-school chorus club will be featured, along with students in preschool and kindergarten. Families are welcome to join us for this musical afternoon.

We are planning our annual **Field Day** for **Wednesday, June 12**. On this day, we will plan a variety of opportunities for students to be outside and active. This also aligns with recent state legislation by Governor Lamont where districts need to designate a day to ***Get Outside and Play for Mental Health***. It should be a fun day for everyone!

Our PTO and our other parent groups – School Readiness Council, and the Auction Committee, continue to meet virtually to plan and provide for our students and staff. **All groups are seeking new members** to continue the valuable partnerships that have been formed between the school and community and to continue to support Eastford Elementary School families and academic and extracurricular programs. Please let me know if you are interested in joining any of these groups. Each of these groups needs new members so we need **YOU** now more than ever! Please reach out if you would like further information about joining one or more of these committees!

Looking ahead to next school year, we want to be sure that children who are eligible for Kindergarten know that **Kindergarten registration is open!** Children who were born in 2019, specifically those who will be turning 5 years old by September 1, 2024, are eligible for Kindergarten during the 2024-2025 school year. It helps our planning if **Kindergarten registration** forms are submitted as early as possible. There is a registration form available in the school office and online at www.eastfordct.org. Go to the 'For Families' section and then click on 'Forms'. Students who are currently enrolled in our preschool Readiness Program do **not** need to register for kindergarten. For more information please visit our school website or call the school office.

We will continue to do our best to keep you informed as plans materialize for end-of-year events. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns, or if you need support of any kind.

Art News – Ms. Weinland

Our journey in the art room has been truly remarkable. The artwork below represents only a fraction of the incredible creations produced by our students, highlighting their dedication to learning and mastery of new techniques.

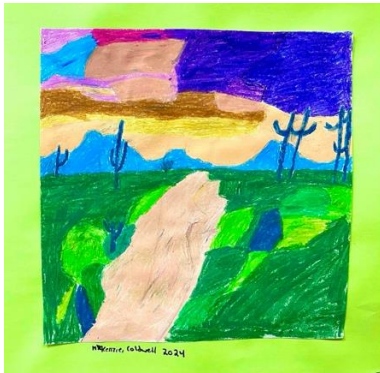
CRAYON COLLAGES – PRESCHOOL



SELF PORTRAITS – SECOND GRADE



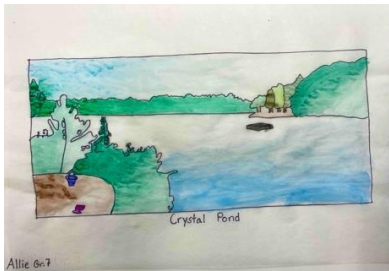
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE COLOR STUDIES – FIFTH GRADE



WATERCOLOR BIRCH TREES – FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE



EASTFORD, CT LANDMARK DRAWINGS – SEVENTH GRADE



TREE HOUSE PAINTINGS – FIRST GRADE



Enrichment News – Mrs. Lynch

The month of April has flown by so quickly!

In Enrichment, our students have been finishing their research for their individual projects. Students have made use of safe online resources as well as books from our own Eastford Elementary School Library. In the course of their explorations, students shared their work. They were then given the opportunity to provide feedback to each other. We discussed this process as a “constructive feedback sandwich:” say something positive, politely share a possible suggestion, and end with another positive statement. This activity helped students to better focus their research. The next step will be to plan and organize the information they gathered. Students have chosen to create posters to display their findings.



Best wishes for a wonderful month of May!

Donna R. Lynch, Enrichment Teacher



Grade K News – Ms. Garvie

In the month of April, the children learned about what it means to be an avid reader. They understand that avid readers:

- Read intensely;
 - Read all kinds of things;
 - Think and react;
 - Read everywhere;
 - Explain what they have learned to others;
 - Feel what the characters are feeling.
-

The children are already showing many qualities of an avid reader!

At the start of the month, we had a great time doing a snap word egg hunt for a fun and engaging phonics activity! We have learned all 54 snap words now so please do not forget to practice them at home. If your child can read most of them, have them practice spelling and writing them next.

We finished up unit 6 in math and now the children can count groups of up to 20 objects. They have learned strategies like counting on from 10 and keeping track of what has already been counted to make it easier to count from 11-20 objects.

During recent science lessons, the children have learned all about keeping the earth a clean and safe place to live. We read, Felina's New Home and saw what can happen to animals if we do not take care of our earth. Our science unit was about the basic needs of plants, and we even did some planting in the classroom. We planted bean seeds and tracked the growth of our bean plants in our plant journals over spring break. Other fun activities this month include our trip to the Eastford Public Library, returning our March home learning activities to earn a special lunch with Ms. Garvie, and earning our nature walk class reward.





Grade 1 News – Mrs. Rhynhart

The first graders are looking forward to the month of May! We will learn about plants and their superpowers that help them grow and survive in their habitat. We will also be inventors and use what we learn about trees to help us solve a problem with beach umbrellas! We will continue our focus on geography as we learn our place in the world, our continent, our country, our state, and our awesome town of Eastford! My first-grade mathematicians are learning how to add double-digit numbers using place value by adding the “ones” and adding the “tens” and my first grade authors are learning how to write “opinion” stories by sharing their opinion about a topic and giving reasons to support their opinion. This month our social skills curriculum (Second Step) focuses on fair ways to play (sharing, trading, taking turns) as well as ways to include others who may feel left out and strategies to manage name calling. We have a lot to get to – off we go!

Grade 2 News – Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln

BOOK BUDDIES

Grade 2 welcomed Mr. Salsich’s grade 7 ELA class to share their recent insect research reports. This multi-discipline assignment is linked to the Units of Study program, but also incorporates science and technology! Grade 7 was a wonderful audience and asked some excellent questions to the grade 2 writers. We look forward to a visit with them at the end of the month.

SYMMETRY

Did you know that grade 2 is partnering up with Mrs. Weinland to work on an exciting symmetry project? In the classroom, students learned about symmetry in math class and have done several fun projects such as taking a symmetry nature walk as well as designing spring butterflies depicting symmetry. Parents can view these creations in Seesaw! In the art room, Mrs. Weinland has teamed up with us and students are creating a variety of symmetry-related art. Be on the lookout for symmetry around you!

Grade 3 News – Mrs. Bisson

This month, grade 3 traveled to the Audubon Center in Pomfret to learn more about the birds of Northeastern Connecticut. We hiked the trails while looking and listening for signs of birds, watched birds get tagged so ornithologists can learn more about them, went on an animal scavenger hunt, and learned about the different types of bird beaks and how birds use their beaks to eat and survive.

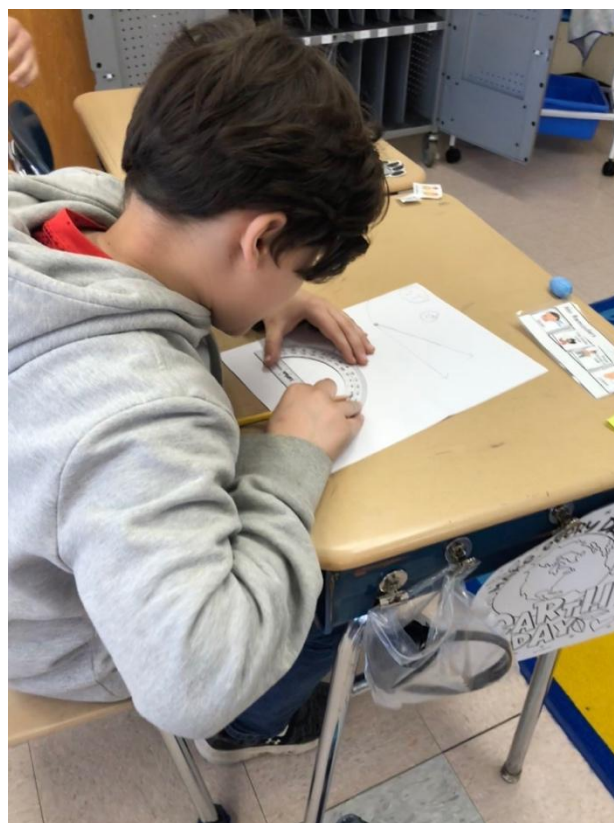
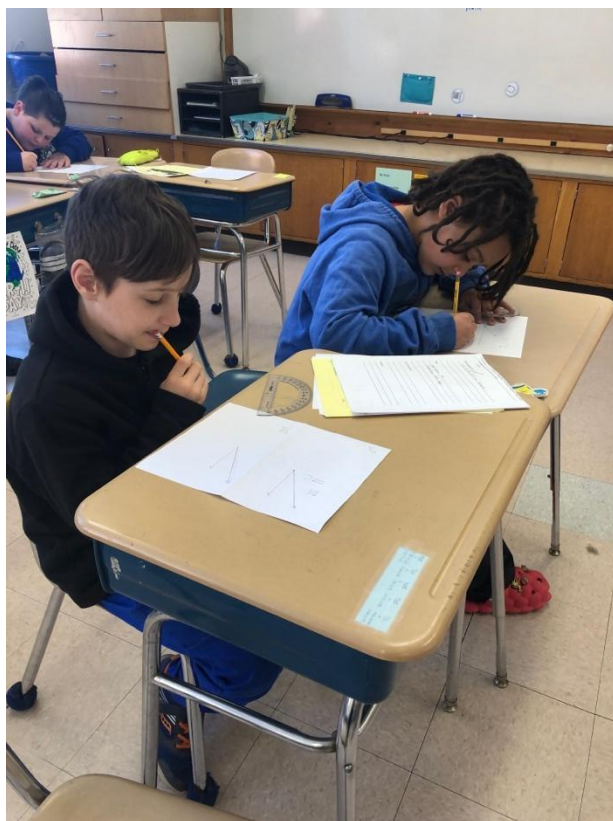
We also participated in the 2024 Solar Eclipse with our eclipse glasses! First, we learned about the differences between a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse and we also talked about the paths of totality. Then, we made our way outside during the eclipse and observed the movement of the moon over the sun over a period of 45 minutes. We also observed the differences in the light, temperature, and the nature around us during this time. It was an incredible and memorable experience!





Grade 4 News – Ms. Dill

Students are feverishly working to master fourth-grade geometry standards. Geometry learning involves studying shapes, sizes, and properties of objects in space. Students explore concepts like angles, lines, and transformations to understand the world around them in a spatial context. Geometry can be tricky for some students due to its abstract nature, requiring visualization and spatial reasoning skills that may not come easily to everyone. Additionally, understanding geometric concepts often involves memorizing and applying a variety of formulas and theorems, which can be overwhelming for some learners. Despite its challenges, studying geometry is important as it helps students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and spatial reasoning skills essential for careers in the fields of mathematics, science, engineering, and architecture.

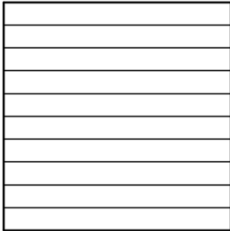


Math News – Mrs. Barlow

Grade 5: We have started a unit on multiplication and division of whole numbers. Students have learned the standard algorithm for multiplication. We have just begun doing partial quotients for multi-digit division problems.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \boxed{28} \\
 3 \\
 5 \\
 20 \\
 16 \overline{)448} \\
 \underline{-320} \quad (20 \times 16) \\
 128 \\
 \underline{-80} \quad (5 \times 16) \\
 48 \\
 \underline{-48} \quad (3 \times 16) \\
 0
 \end{array}$$

Grade 6 is about to have an assessment in their unit on dividing with



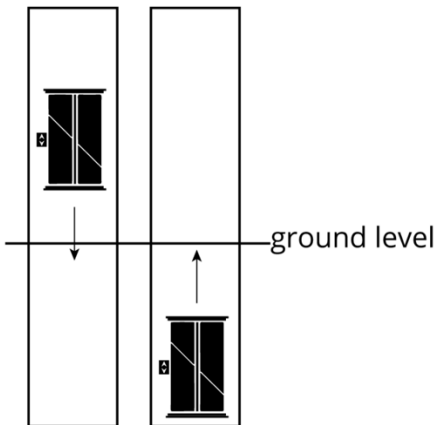
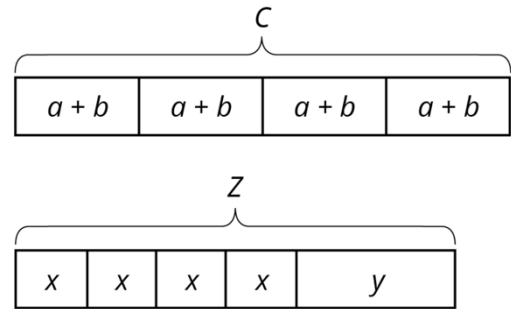
What number does the square represent if each small rectangle represents:

- a. 10
- b. 0.1
- c. 0.00001

fractions. Once this unit is done, we will do a speed version of the following unit: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with decimals up to the thousandth place. They have done much

of this already when doing unit rates so that it will be a quick chapter.

Grade 7 has been reviewing for our SBAC testing. Once the test is done, we will continue our unit on algebraic equations and inequalities.



Grade 8:

We are working on applying what we have learned about linear equations to systems of equations.

Algebra: We just started our second-to-last unit on polynomials. We are working on adding, subtracting, multiplying,

Subtracting Polynomials

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{Subtraction Sign} \\
 (4x - 3) - (2x^2 + 4x - 8) \\
 \text{Parentheses} \\
 (4x - 3) - (2x^2 + 4x - 8) \\
 \text{Keep the same} \quad \text{Change the sign of every term} \\
 (4x - 3) + -2x^2 - 4x + 8
 \end{array}$$

and factoring Polynomials.

ELA – Mr. Salsich

Dear Middle School Families,

As we approach the upcoming standardized tests, I'd like to share an approach our students and I have embraced: SBAC review games. Here's a breakdown of how I'm making learning engaging and effective:

1. Student-Created Games:

Instead of traditional study methods, we are actively involved in creating review games. From board games to digital challenges, we're exercising our creativity while reinforcing key concepts.

2. Peer Learning and Collaboration:

Playing games designed by their peers fosters a sense of camaraderie and encourages collaboration. It's not just about memorization; it's about working together and learning from one another.

3. Reduced-Stress Learning:

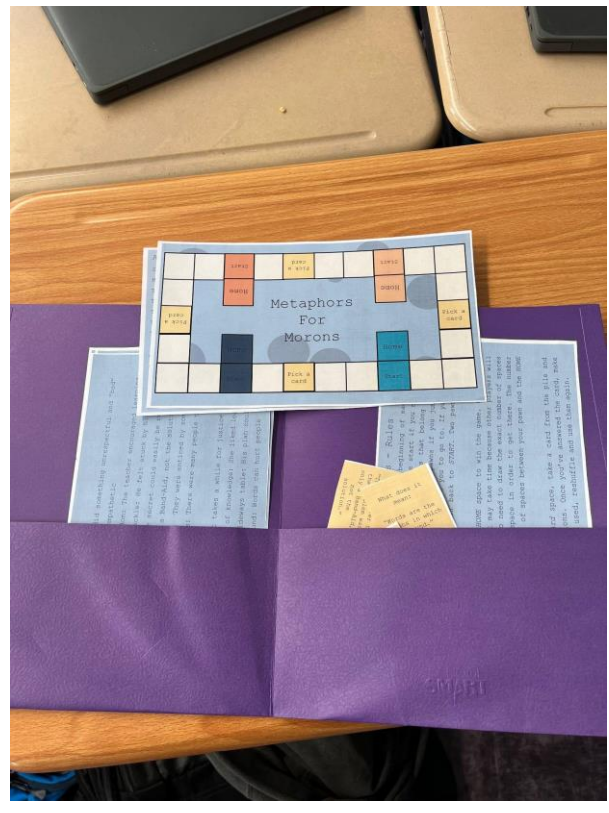
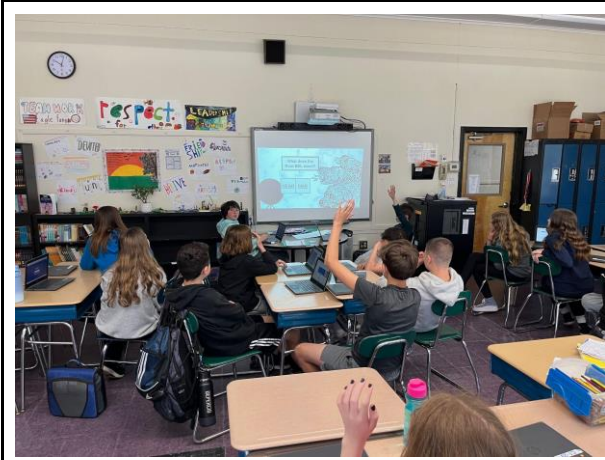
I understand the importance of reducing stress, especially during test preparation. These games provide a low-stress environment where students can review material in a relaxed and enjoyable manner. The tests are important, but too much stress damages their ability to learn effectively.

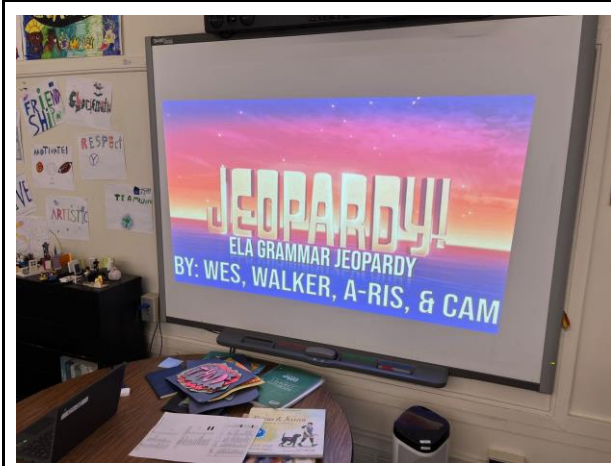
4. Building Confidence:

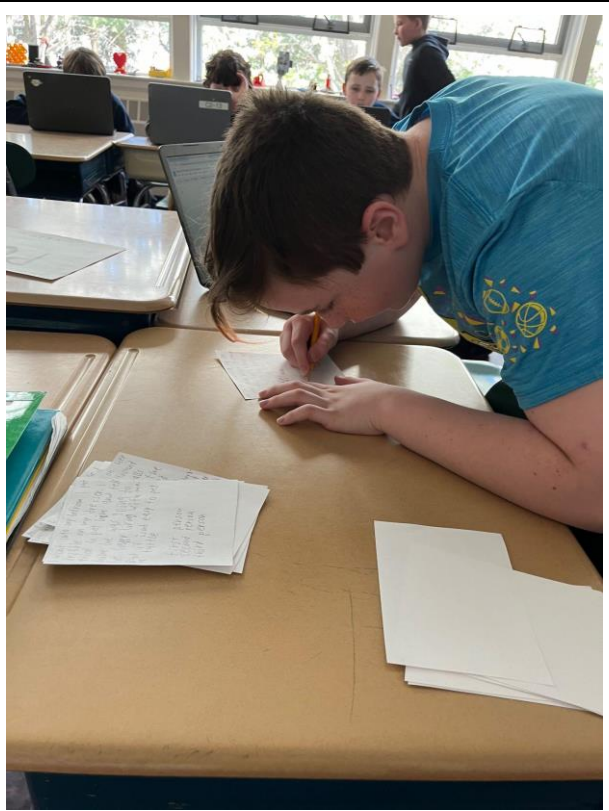
By actively engaging with the material and experiencing success in the games we create and play, students are building confidence in their abilities. This confidence is invaluable, not only for the upcoming tests but for future academic endeavors as well.

My focus remains on creating a positive and supportive learning environment where students feel empowered and motivated to succeed. Thank you for your continued support in this endeavor.

Warm regards.







Science News – Mrs. Mead

Middle school student scientists are continuing to learn and grow!



Learning the parts of a microscope and how to use one efficiently to view microscopic organisms and cell structure.



Learning to use pH indicators to test for acids.

Eclipse reactions on April 8th



Social Studies News – Mr. Kernan

In grade 5, we have been learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Beginning with the Constitution, we have learned about the branches of government, the powers those branches have, what a checks and balances system is intended to do, and our rights and liberties as citizens. Further, grade 5 students have gained an understanding of their rights as students. Next, we will culminate our work by creating posters of the Bill of Rights. These are the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution. We learned how James Madison led a movement to add these in order to get the Constitution ratified. Funny thing, without these, the Constitution may have never been ratified.

Students will be broken into teams and each team will take one of the first 10 Amendments. They will create a poster to capture what rights each Amendment stands for and help students gain an understanding of how they are used or interpreted today. Once we complete our assessment for this unit, we will begin to look at the early years of the United States.

Grades 6 - 7 Social Studies

In grades 6 and 7, we completed our unit of study on World War II. Each grade level had a different assessment and each grade level considered different elements of World War II. Students completed projects that focused on the Nisei Regiment, the Tuskegee Airmen, Rosie the Riveter, and the Navajo Code Talkers. We gained an appreciation for all Americans who supported our efforts to defeat Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan. Our next unit has taken us into the Cold War. Students will learn what the global impact was of events such as the building of the Berlin Wall, the Space Race, proxy wars, and the political chaos that erupted over the fight for Democracy and Communism.

Grade 8 Social Studies

Students in grade 8 have been creating a podcast. This is the second year working with podcasts. Students and I have both found this work fun and engaging. I have seen our students engage more actively in their learning and develop their own thoughts about the American Civil War and General Ulysses S. Grant. We are examining the Civil War by experiencing the war through the experiences of Ulysses S. Grant. Once completed, I will share your child's podcast with you. I think you will be as impressed as I am with their work!

Library & Media Center – Mrs. Bibeault

Changes in the EES Library

Our Early Reader Nonfiction section has undergone a transformation! Previously, it was difficult for our younger readers to navigate the Dewey decimal system when selecting nonfiction books, as all the books were on the shelves with the spine labels facing out. The reliance on adults for book selection would just not do! Hence, the reorganization of books in the new mobile book organizer and book baskets. These organizational materials were purchased with Scholastic dollars earned from book fairs held at the school, and through generous donations by the community. Thank you to everyone who supports our book fairs and to our fabulous community donors. You are helping to make the library a more accessible and enjoyable experience.





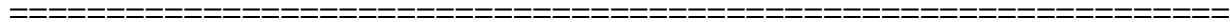
Returning of Library Materials

Library books and audiobooks must be returned to the school library by May 30, 2024. EES Library items belong to the school and must be replaced or paid for if lost or damaged. If your child has misplaced or damaged a library book, please reach out to Mrs. Bibault at library@eastfordct.org. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. Thank you for assisting in the upkeep of our library collection. Our readers really love their books!



Grade 8 Digital Designing

The grade 8 class explored the process of creating digital designs and bringing them to life through the innovative Cricut Design Software. Our project involved the creation of unique designs, using our math skills to adjust and fine-tune these designs, placing them on clothing with accuracy, and ironing them onto shirts and sweatshirts. This was a fun way to show our school spirit and we plan to use these new skills to support younger classes, demonstrating our commitment in giving back to our school community.



Scholastic Book Fair



Buy 1 Get 1 Free

June 3-7, 2024

M-F 8:30am-3:45pm

Th 3:45pm-6:00pm

in the EES Library

Visit the [bookfair webpage](#) to create an eWallet (available on May 13, 2024) for your child.

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/eastfordelementaryschool1>

A link to the "EES Book Fairy" eWallet will be available on the school's website on May 13, 2024, for those who would like to contribute. The EES Book Fairy will help put a book in the hands of all students during the book fair!

Email Mrs. Bibeault @ library@eastfordct.org with any questions.

Everything is taxable, including books.

P. E. & Health – Mr. Cody

PE:

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, kicking skills, throwing skills, and movement to advance various skills. 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 sports activities. We have started our badminton unit and combined it with Connecticut fitness testing. Students completed pushups, situps, and sit and reach assessments during April. With the weather

warming up, students will complete the mile run. Sportsmanship, fairness, effort, and integrity will continue to be a major focus.

Middle School Health:

Grades 5–8: First Aid and CPR took a little longer than anticipated. Middle school students were highly engaged. Ms. Spink and I were so impressed! We have already started our state-guided drug and alcohol unit. Please be aware that the reproduction unit will follow. I will be sending out an email prior to the reproduction unit. I anticipate this will start the week of May 13.

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

IMPORTANT: Grades 5-8 will start reviewing our state guided reproduction unit MAY 13. 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.

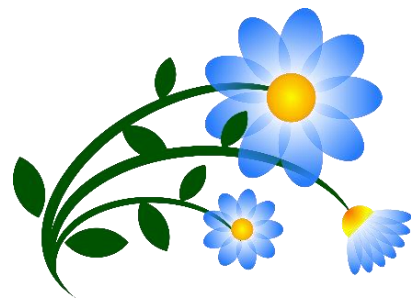
Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to take a moment to inform you about an upcoming topic that we will be covering in health class. Starting in May 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, school administration, or Mrs. Schleicher.

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





EES PTO May Newsletter

April in Review:

All orders have been received and distributed for the Spring Fundraiser. Thank you all for participating!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Earth Day Craft collaboration with the Eastford Public Library. The children made bird feeders, butterfly waterers, and a mural made out of recyclables. It was wonderful to see how engaged all the children were. Also a big thank you to the volunteers and parents who always help make our events run smoothly.

Upcoming:

May 6-10 is Staff appreciation week please be on the lookout for volunteer needs.

A co-chair position is available. If interested in joining, please reach out!

May Events:

- May 14 - PTO via zoom. Please email us for the link
- May 31- Encanto Movie Night 6pm. Please keep an eye out for the sign up sheet to come home in the next week.

Contact Info: Aliesha Lynch - PTO Chair

Feel free to reach out 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 using the link below.

Eastford Elementary PTO Facebook Page



THIS IS NOT
A DROP
OFF EVENT

Movie Night

SPONSORED
BY EES PTO

May
31

6pm
to
8pm

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT -
DISNEY'S ENCANTO



EASTFORD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL



PTO@EASTFORDCT.ORG

PLEASE ENSURE YOU RETURN THE SIGN UP FORM NO LATER
THAN MAY 17, 2024

Eastford Elementary School PTO

is sponsoring a Family Movie Night

May 31, 2024 from 6-8pm

Disney's Encanto



Rated PG

*****Cut off and Return to School by May 7*****

Family Name: _____

Number of People Attending _____

This is not a Drop Off Event. It is a Family Engagement Activity.

You can bring your own snacks and drinks.

Popcorn will be provided.



2024 EES AFTER SCHOOL May

notes	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All times are 3:45 - 4:45 unless otherwise noted</p>				Chorus Gr 3-8 FAMILY PAINT Event 5:30 - 7 Gym 1	Creative Movement Gr K - 3 Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 2 Art Club Gr 4 - 8	Middle School Dance Gr 5 - 8 6pm - 8pm 3	4
	5	Mystic: Astronomy Gr. 1-4 6	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 Board Games: Gr. K-2 3:30 - 4:30 7	Chorus Gr 3-8 Aviation Gr 4 - 8 Mystic Invertebrates Gr 2 - 5 8	Creative Movement Gr K - 3 Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 9	Movie:K - 8 Ratatouille 3:30 - 5:30 10	11
	12	RHW Gr 2-5 Family Sea Life Fair Night - Mystic 6 - 7 pm 13	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 STEM Pig Races 14 Gr 3 - 8	Chorus Gr 3-8 Aviation Gr 4 - 8 15	Creative Movement Gr K - 3 Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 16 Art Club Gr 4 - 8	Early Dismissal 12:30 17	18
	19	Mystic: Astronomy Gr. 1-4 20	Acad Supp: Gr. 2-8 Board Games: Gr. 3 & 4 (3:30-4:30) Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 Mystic - Reptiles Gr 3-5 21	Chorus Gr 3-8 Cupcakes Gr 3 - 8 Aviation Gr 4 - 8 Bat House Gr 1 22	Creative Movement Gr K - 3 Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 23	Jamboree PK/K 3:45-5 24	25
	26	NO SCHOOL 27	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 Mystic - Squid Dissection Gr 5 - 8 28	Chorus Gr 3-8 Cupcakes 3 - 8 Bat House Gr 1 29	Academic Support: Gr. 2-8 (3:45-4:45) Golf Club Gr 5 - 8 & Art Club 4 Gr - 8 30	Cupcakes 3 - 8 31	

©Color Nation



Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc

ANNUAL 4-H AUCTION & TAG SALE

event highlights

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

Come see **Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge** in action both nights and bid on exciting items including antiques, family trips, dining out, furniture, home decor, garden plants and much more.

FRIDAY

Preview @ 5 pm
Auction @ 6 pm

SATURDAY

Preview @ 4:30 pm
Auction @ 5:30 pm

TAG SALE - Rain or Shine

Over 4000 square feet of bargains galore!

FRIDAY

- 9-10:30 am \$5 Early Bird Buy-In
- 10:30 am - 5 pm (free)

SATURDAY

- 9 AM - 5 pm

DELICIOUS FOOD - ALL DAY

- Bake Sale
- Hot Food
- Cold Drinks
- Fresh Apple Pie and more

AND MUCH MORE!

All proceeds to benefit the Windham County 4-H Foundation, sponsors of the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp and Ragged Hill Woods Education Program.



Contact Us
860-974-3379



More Information
www.4hcampct.org

featuring

Friday Night



Getaway

Saturday Night



VS.



July 14, 2024

2 Tickets Behind
Home Plate

Both Nights



Exclusive Canvas Prints
from around Camp

3-4

MAY

326 TAFT POND ROAD
POMFRET CENTER, CT 06259

5K

May 11, 2024

Heart of EASTFORD



START TIME:

9:00_{AM}

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





SPORTS CAMP

Register AND Pay BEFORE May 15th for
Early Bird Pricing of \$50/Camper!

Sign up by June 30th to receive a t-shirt!

Scholarships available!

Enter "Scholarship request" in the last box.

July 22 - 26, 2024
8:30 am - 12:15 pm
Ages 4 - 12
\$60 per camper



Soccer



Cheerleading



Team 45



Flag Football



Basketball

Brought to you by:
UW Sports Ministry
Congregational
Church of Eastford
Living Proof Church

Held at Eastford Elementary School
12 Westford Road, Eastford, CT
Online signup and payment!
cceastford.org/sports-camp/