



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: May 2, 2024
 Subject: May 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.
- On May 15 students in preschool and kindergarten will travel to Southwick Zoo.
- On May 24 grade 8 students will travel to Boston, MA (pending availability of transportation) to tour Fenway Park, visit Faneuil Hall, and participate in a “Donut Tour” of the city.
- Grade 5 will travel to the New Britain Museum of Art on May 28 for their third Faces of Culture trip.
- On June 4 students in grades 6 and 7 will travel to the Connecticut River Museum in Essex to study Connecticut River ecosystems.
- On June 5 kindergarten students will travel to the Loos Culture Center at The Woodstock Academy to attend the performance of *Charlotte’s Web*.
- On June 11 students in grades 4 and 5 will travel to the Connecticut River Museum in Essex to study Connecticut River ecosystems.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Pacific Marine Mammal Center	Marine Mammals – Senses	Grades 1, 2	05/10/2024
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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 two students. We currently have 18 students registered for 17 spaces for fall 2024. Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. Garvie are planning transition activities for incoming preschoolers and kindergarteners. A family nature hike is planned for May 7 at 3:30 PM and an orientation evening for students and parents is scheduled for May 30 at 6:00 PM.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. 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 the Kindergarten entry age and the impact it will have on our Readiness Program. Our NAEYC reaccreditation visit will take place between July 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025. On this visit they will observe our preschool space, the children and their classroom routines, and review the classroom and program portfolios being prepared by Mrs. Kopplin, Mrs. McCombe, and our Readiness Liaison, Mrs. Greene. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has released the continuation grant for schools receiving School Readiness grant funding. Our updated grant is ready for submission to OEC.

Data on Student Progress:

Students in grades 3-8 are taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS). These assessments are nationally normed, are used to calculate student growth and achievement, and are used for district accountability and to inform instruction. Results are available to teachers within 24 hours and family reports will be available early next school year. Students in grades 4, 6, and 8 are completing their physical fitness assessments this month. Students are assessed in Aerobic Endurance (mile run), Flexibility (sit-and-reach), Muscular Strength/Endurance (curl-ups/sit-ups), Upper-Body Strength (Push-ups).

High School Information:

Current High School attendance information (11 students in grade 8):

The Woodstock Academy: 10

Ellis Tech: 1

Professional Development:

- Beginning in February, a team of teachers and administrators began participating 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.
- Beginning in March, two staff members and I began attending a series of three trainings at EastConn around developing our new Educator Growth and Support Plan. New plans are due to the State by July 1, 2024.
- Mrs. Bibeault and I attended a Cyber Security Tabletop Exercise at Camp Nett in Niantic on April 25 to participate in a simulation of a Cyber Attack on a fictitious community. It was a valuable learning experience for us.
- May 17 – early dismissal for Professional Development. Teachers in grades K-4 will learn more about a reading program called Bookworms. Teachers in grades 5-8 will work with EastConn staff on further developing our student-led conferences.

Community, other events, and recognition:

- Students in grade 5 are 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 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. Their last of three trips will be to The New Britain Museum of Art on May 28.
- A middle school dance is scheduled in the evening on May 3 for students in grades 5-8.
- The May calendar of after-school academic and enrichment activities was published in the May Newsletter on May 1. These are all funded through the After School Grant.
- Grade 5 students are participating in the D.A.R.E. program through CT State Police. Students meet with the D.A.R.E. officer once per week through early May. D.A.R.E. graduation is scheduled for May 10 at 2:00 PM.
- On May 7 at 3:30 PM incoming preschool and kindergarten children are invited to attend an afterschool nature hike with a parent/guardian and preschool and kindergarten teachers.
- May 11 is Experience Eastford Day. Events include a 5K road race at 9:00 AM. The school will be open for events, displays, booths, and activities beginning at 10:00 AM.
- On May 30 at 6:00 PM there will be an orientation evening for incoming preschool and kindergarten families.
- Students in our after-school Chorus club will be singing Patriotic songs after the Memorial Day Parade on May 27.
- On June 5 our music teachers, Mrs. Farrell-Denke and Mrs. Burns, will lead students in instrumental and choral performances beginning at 2:00 PM. Parents/guardians are welcome to join us for this event.